WORLD / A19

A million Turks
stand up for
secular democracy

METRO / A17

P250,000 reward offered
for cell phone snatcher who
shot 16-year-old boy dead

WORLD / A19

Trigger-happy in US:
4 dead after Kansas
City shootings

NEWS / A2

GO admits
impeach-GMA
chances slim

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, May 1, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 142 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Palace pooh-poohs survey; TU calls it GO propaganda

By Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID IT WAS NOT bothered by an opposition-sponsored survey that found 40 percent of voters believed that President Macapagal-Arroyo "will cheat in the May 2007 elections for her candidates to win."

"I believe the other side of the coin is that more

PALACE/ A13

Lawyer seeks disbarment of Secretary Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria and Volt Contreras

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ'S OFFER of P10,000 to Iloilo barangay chairs who would deliver a 12-0 sweep for Team Unity's senatorial candidates in their areas in the May 14 elections yesterday drew a disbarment complaint and a corruption charge.

LAWYER/ A4

Honasan, Zubiri surge in survey

Senatorial Voting Preferences 2007

Candidates	Feb. 28-Mar 5 Percentage	Feb. 28-Mar 5 Rank	April 3-5 Percentage	April 3-5 Rank	April 21-25 Percentage	April 21-25 Rank
Legarda, Loren	56.8	1	60.8	1	59.6	1
Escudero, Francis "Chiz"	35.5	3-9	45.3	2-6	47.2	2-4
Villar, Manuel "Manny" Jr.	35.0	3-10	48.9	2-4	47.0	2-4
Lacson, Panfilo "Ping"	41.1	2-3	43.1	3-6	43.9	2-4
Pangilinan, Francis "Kiko"	39.4	2-6	44.6	2-6	38.8	5-10
Cayetano, Alan Peter	30.9	5-11	32.5	7-13	38.2	5-10
Honasan, Gregorio "Gringo"	27.3	10-12	30.5	8-15	35.7	5-12
Aquino, Benigno III "Noynoy"	34.2	4-10	33.5	7-13	35.5	5-12
Recto, Ralph "Korecto"	35.2	3-10	41.5	3-6	35.4	5-12
Angara, Edgardo "Ed"	32.1	4-10	35.5	7-11	35.2	5-12
Arroyo, Joker	34.5	4-10	31.6	7-15	33.4	7-14
Zubiri, Juan Miguel "Migz"	19.2	13-18	27.9	10-18	32.0	7-14
Pimentel, Aquilino "Koko"	23.1	12-18	27.6	10-18	30.1	11-15
Sotto, Vicente "Tito" III	25.4	11-17	31.5	7-15	29.2	11-17

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA

Pulse Asia says 7 GO, 5 TU, 2 independent bets may make it

FORMER SEN. GREGORIO HONASAN and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri gained the support of more voters between the first and fourth weeks of April, improving their standing in the senatorial race, results of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. on April 21-25 showed.

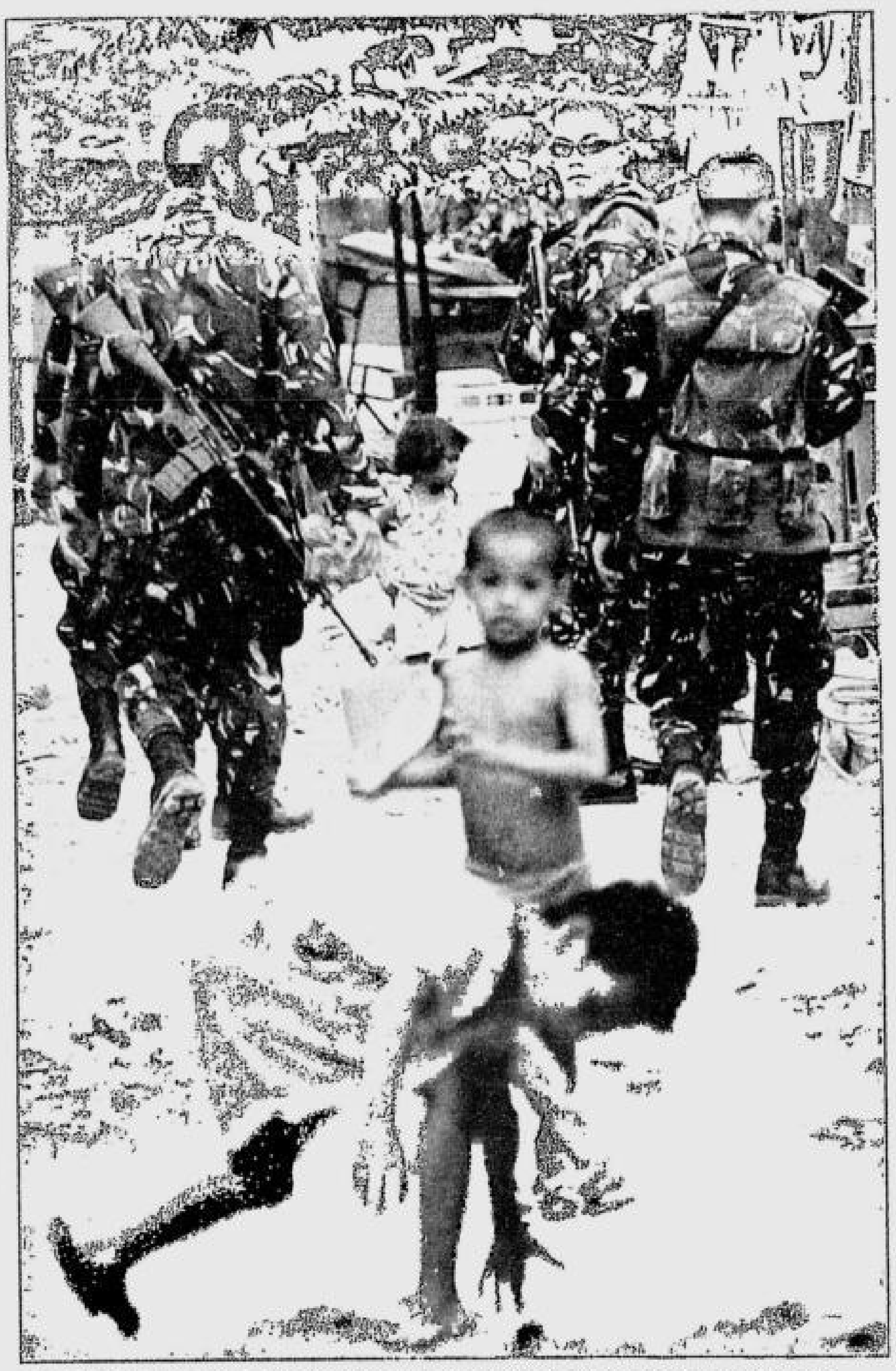
With only two weeks before voters cast their ballots, 14 senatorial candidates—seven from the Genuine Opposition (GO), five from the administration's Team Unity (TU) and two independents—had a "statistical chance" of winning if the elections were held in the last week of April, Pulse Asia said in a statement yesterday.

Honasan, an independent candidate, rose to between 5th and 12th places (with 35.7 percent of Filipino adults saying they will vote for him) from 8th to 15th places (30.5 percent).

Three others (Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, and reelectionist Senators Ralph Recto and Edgardo Angara), however, share the 5th to 12th places with Honasan.

Honasan, a former Army officer who was involved in several coup attempts, was released from detention after posting bail the night before the start of the latest Pulse Asia survey.

HONASAN/ A13



CHILDREN play on the street unmindful of a group of Army soldiers conducting a patrol of the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila. The photo was taken on Jan. 29 as controversy swirled around the deployment of soldiers in Metro Manila. EDWIN BACASMAS

WHERE IS JONAS BURGOS?

EDITH BURGOS holds up a photo of her missing activist son, Jonas, during a press conference in Quezon City on Monday. Jonas is the son of the late journalist Jose Burgos who kept the embers of press freedom burning during the long, dark night of the Marcos dictatorship. JOAN BONDOC

Where's the son of Joe Burgos?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HIS LAST TEXT MESSAGES to his family did not make any sense.

Believing that her son may have been abducted, the wife of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos yesterday appealed for the release of 36-year-old Jonas Joseph Burgos.

Jonas has been missing with two companions since Saturday, according to Edith Burgos.

"We are asking anybody who may have seen him, or could be holding him, to please set him free," Edith said in a press conference in Quezon City.

Edith declined to say who might be behind the possible abduction of her son, who has been actively involved in agri-technology training of peasant organizations.

But the Families of Desaparecidos for Justice issued a statement raising the possibility that the military was involved.

"This is a brazen act which

WHERE/ A6

Pangasinan mayor gives thumbs-up to son before dying in QC hospital

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BEFORE HE WAS AIRLIFTED TO QUEZON City, Mayor Julian Resuello still managed to give the thumbs-up sign—a gesture that was not lost on his son Julier.

"I knew what he meant by that," Julier, vice mayor of San Carlos City in Pangasinan, said in a media briefing at the St. Luke's Medical Center lobby yesterday morning.

"My father wanted me to be brave and to continue our fight for the people of our beloved city," Julier said in Filipino, his eyes red and brimming with tears.

Resuello, 54, who was running for vice mayor before he was shot during the city's fiesta celebration on Saturday night, died at 7 a.m. yesterday. The younger Resuello is running for mayor in a switch with his father.

"The doctors told us that his vital organs and some major arteries were damaged by the bullets, and that his lungs were continuously bleeding," Julier said.

Resuello succumbed two days after

PANGASINAN/ A6

Bush aide tells cancer patients: Think of life

WASHINGTON—TONY SNOW, PRESS secretary to President George W. Bush, has a message for people with cancer: "Don't think about dying. Think about living."

It is a snappy sound bite from a man accustomed to delivering them, but in this case, there is added poignancy to it. Last month, Snow learned that his colon cancer had recurred and spread, attaching itself to his liver.

After a five-week absence, Snow returned to work at the White House on Monday while undergoing chemotherapy.

Snow will not be the first high-profile political figure to undergo cancer treatment while in the spotlight. Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, for instance, led two contentious Supreme Court confirmation hearings in 2005 and spent much of that year in chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease.

But Snow, 51, a former radio and television host for Fox News, has something the others do not—a lectern with the presidential seal behind it and television cameras trained on him nearly every day.

The press secretary said he intended to use that platform to give other cancer patients hope and to educate the public.

BUSH AIDE/ A9

GMA calls on military to help stop poll violence

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nikko Dizon

ALARMED BY THE RISING TIDE OF VIOLENCE, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called out the Armed Forces to help the police crush private armies, man checkpoints 24 hours a day and stop political killings, as the death toll in campaign mayhem rose to 31.

In a separate move, the Commission on Elections placed San Carlos City in Pangasinan under its control and said it would take the same step for the entire province of Kalinga Apayao and the town of Valencia in Bukidnon.

This would raise to five the number of areas under the control of the poll body, with two weeks left before the senatorial, congressional and local elections.

Abra and Nueva Ecija are already under Comelec control.

In calling out the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Malacañang stressed the military would be under Comelec

GMA CALLS/ A6

BAKA MATUSTADO NA KAYO SA INIT!

Sizzling, steamy nights traced to global warming

By TJ Burgonio

IT HASN'T SIZZLED LIKE THIS FOR HALF A century, so get ready to take it all off.

No, it's not another night of steamy sex; it's actually global warming.

Officials of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday said a trend of increasing hot days and decreasing cold nights had been noted in the country since the 1960s.

SIZZLING/ A4

EZ2
(15) (11)

FOUR DIGIT
(1) (5) (1) (9)

SUERTRES
Mid-Day (3) (3) (0)
Evening (5) (1) (2)
(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
(10) (15) (21) (22) (30) (32)
P19,534,051.80

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/04/30/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

GO: Impeach-GMA chances slim

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS JUST ABOUT given up on winning enough seats in the House of Representatives to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo in the next Congress.

Campaign officials said that of the 144 congressional candidates fielded by the opposition, only half were believed to have a good chance of winning, while only a third were considered "sure" winners in the May 14 elections.

The opposition would need the votes of at least one-third of the total membership of the House to impeach the President, who survived two impeachment attempts in 2005 and 2006.

There are 220 congressional districts and 55 party-list seats. This means it would take 92 representatives to impeach the President if all the party-list groups won.

Ms Arroyo continues to battle the public perception that she cheated in the 2004 presidential election against the late movie star Fernando Poe Jr.

Wiretapped cell phone conversations between her and a man believed to be former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano surfaced a year after the polls in which the two could be heard discussing vote margins. This came to be known as the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Horacio "Boy" Morales, executive committee member of the United Opposition party, which is part of the Genuine Opposition (GO) coalition, said yesterday that only half of the 144 opposition congressional candidates had a good chance of winning.

"It's not the weakness of our candidates but rather (due to the fact that in some) places we don't have candidates, like the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) and some parts of Zamboanga," said Morales, who was at the GO headquarters in Makati City yesterday.

GO campaign spokesperson Adel Tamano said that based on their analysis, only one-third or about 40 of their congressional candidates could be considered "sure" winners.

"I would say that out of that 144, fifty percent have a strong chance (of winning). One third *halos sigurado na* (are almost sure of winning)," he added.

"If you just base it on this, definitely we will not be able to reach the number (needed to impeach the President)," Tamano said.

Morales, however, was optimistic the opposition could still launch another impeachment complaint against President Arroyo if they allied with opposition-leaning party-list representatives who would be elected.

"We are building alliances with different political organizations, even their political parties and other party-list groups," Morales said.

He said opposition congressional candidates who would be elected are expected to support an impeachment case.

"It's assumed. *May* strong commitment *na yan*," he said.

Morales and Tamano, however, clarified that the President's impeachment was not the opposition's sole objective in the May 14 elections.

"It's part of it *pero hindi lang naman doon* (but that's not all we want). We're also preparing for the opposition role after the elections," Morales said.

A recent study by the Institute for Popular Democracy showed the opposition firmly tipped to win only 35 seats in Congress, while another 25 candidates had reasonably good prospects, according to *Reuters*.

About 10 left-wing members were also expected to retain their seats in the House, boosting the ranks of the anti-Arroyo lawmakers in Congress.

Analysts said they expected the opposition to hold backroom talks with some of Ms Arroyo's allies who might abandon her due to alleged growing in-fighting within the pro-administration coalition. ***With a Reuters report***

On Labor Day, GMA has no wage hike to give, only recommendation

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

THOUGH SHE HAS NO WAGE increase to give as a gift in today's Labor Day celebration, President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to announce non-wage benefits along with her personal recommendation to the regional wage boards to start discussions on minimum wage adjustments.

The President will address the celebration of moderate labor groups led by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) at the Folk Arts Theater today.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said he had recommended to the President that the P75-wage hike petition filed by the TUCP before the tripartite wage boards be considered "a signal for a nationwide wage adjustment."

Brion said it was time to have a wage increase but it should be done through the proper mechanism—the regional wage boards which consider the factors prevailing in their respective regions as basis for increasing wages.

"You know our minimum wage (increase) will come. It's just a question of time and means," Brion said.

Brion expressed relief that the proposal in Congress for a legislated wage increase of P125 was dead—overtaken by the expiration of the term of the 13th Congress.

But militant labor groups like Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) said they would not compromise on their demand for a P125 legislated across-the-board wage hike.

They said they would also reject the non-wage benefit package expected to be announced by President Arroyo.

"Labor Day is the workers' birthday and they expect gifts that meet their real needs, not tokens meant to appease their anger," said PM Rep. Renato Magtubo.

"We do not reject non-wage benefits if they are combined with a wage increase, and are part of a comprehensive package to raise the minimum wage at par with the P768 daily cost of living," he said.

Taking advantage of the election season, KMU chair Elmer Labog reminded all local and national candidates that "their support or neglect for the legislated wage hike will be an important determinant in their gaining the labor vote on May 14."

KMU and allied party-list group Anakpawis will hold their May 1 activities at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Despite ratings, Kapatiran plugs away

By Norman Bordadora

REFUSING TO SAY DIE, ANG KAPatiran, which is lagging way behind in the senatorial surveys, yesterday went on the verbal offensive against candidates of both Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition.

"During elections, many groups are asked for their endorsement and allow themselves to be fooled... This is no longer about Team Unity or GO. They are of the same mold, that of *trapos*, traditional politicians," Zosimo Paredes, one of Kapatiran's candidates, said in his address before the Global Call to Action Against Poverty and GO members yesterday in Quezon City.

The GCAP had drafted a social contract against massive deprivation and invited candidates of Kapatiran and GO to the signing.

The social contract is a set of specific policy demands that will serve as an accountability mechanism to help GCAP remind the senators if they win of their promise to push for antipoverty measures.

GCAP did not invite any candidates from the administration slate as its members believed Team Unity would only work for the continuation of the Arroyo administration's antipoor policies, such as prioritizing debt servicing over social services.

Kapatiran's candidates, however, warned the group about the presence of traditional politicians among the senatorial candidates that GCAP invited to the contract signing.

"We already know that the trapos have outlived their usefulness but we continue to use them anyway. When an overused trapo (rag) can no longer clean up things... it should be thrown away," Paredes said.

He made the remarks after most of the GO candidates had left the Quezon City restaurant where the social contract was signed.

Only Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, lawyer Aquilino Pimentel III and the representatives of Sonia Roco and Antonio Trillanes IV were still at the venue.

Cayetano was out of the room and Pimentel was being interviewed by a TV news crew. They failed to hear Paredes' remarks about GO and Team Unity.

"Before, we had no choice. Now, you do—the candidates of the Kapatiran Party. We will be there... help us help yourselves," Paredes added.

Senatorial candidates who entered into GCAP's social contract to fight poverty in the Senate included Paredes and the two other Kapatiran candidates, Adrian Sison and Martin Bautista, Cayetano, Pimentel, Roco, Trillanes, Senate President Manuel Villar, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former Senators Loren Legarda, Anna Dominique Coseteng and Gregorio Honasan and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

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Suspect in Campbell slay charged; more proof found

By Alcuin Papa and Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

POLICE IN THE NORTHERN PHILIPPINES filed yesterday murder charges against Juan Duntugan, a woodcarver in a tourist village overlooking the famed rice terraces of Banaue, for the killing of American Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell on April 8.

The 24-year-old resident of Batad was then flown to Manila in a helicopter and presented to the top brass of the Philippine National Police and the media.

Duntugan, his head bowed and tears streaking down his face, did not give a statement to media upon the advice of his lawyer.

He was clad in a brown jacket over a red T-shirt with, ironically, "USA" printed on the front. After the short presentation, he was immediately led away.

Apparently responding to criticism that the suspect's right to remain silent and to be properly assisted by counsel at all stages of the investigation may have been violated, the Police stressed that their case did not rest solely on Duntugan's "confession."

American forensic experts are in town to observe the handling of the case.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said investigators had recovered more evidence, such as a bloodied sleeveless shirt and a baseball cap which Duntugan allegedly wore the day he killed Campbell, 40, a journalist in New York before she volunteered to do community and education work in the Philippines.

Calderon said that probers also recovered a bloodied piece of firewood believed to have been used to bludgeon Campbell, documents belonging to her, and a bolo used to dig the shallow grave where Campbell was buried.

The items have been submitted by police for laboratory analysis.

Ifugao police director Senior Supt. Pedro Ganir said he considered the case "solved."

But Calderon said he had ordered investigators to look for even more evidence.

"The items and the examinations will be useful in establishing our case. We are doubtful, that is why we need new evidence. But I think we have enough to pin him down. His confession helps," Calderon said.

Cops: Antonino men fired first

By Alcuin Papa

THE FIRST SHOTS CAME FROM THE group of Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, police said based on their initial investigation of the April 26 shooting between bodyguards of Antonino and dismissed Mayor Antonio Esquivel in Jaen, Nueva Ecija.

In a press conference yesterday in Camp Crame, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon said most of the witnesses interviewed by the police said Antonino's police security detail and members of the PNP Region 3's Regional Mobile Group (RMG) fired first.

"The initial findings point to the RMG as having fired the first shots," Calderon said.

However, there were other witnesses who said it was the group of Esquivel, that fired first, the PNP chief said.

"So now it's a battle of witnesses and the preponderance of evidence. We are trying to identify the policeman who fired the first shot," Calderon said.

He said that a team from the RMG was dispatched from Gapan after a request for assistance was made concerning the reported presence of armed men in Jaen.

Just before the shooting, the RMG members signaled to Esquivel's convoy, which was passing through the area, to slow down. But when the convoy refused to slow down, the shooting started.

Calderon said they were investigating the policemen involved in the incident.

"We want to know if there were any lapses and mistakes to correct them and to make sure this does not happen in other places," he said.

Two people died while 17 were wounded in the shooting Thursday night, considered the most violent incident so far in the election period.

A town council candidate and a police escort were killed while the wounded included three police escorts and Esquivel's two sons, Mark Lawrence and Mark Anthony—who underwent surgery for bullet wounds to the head.

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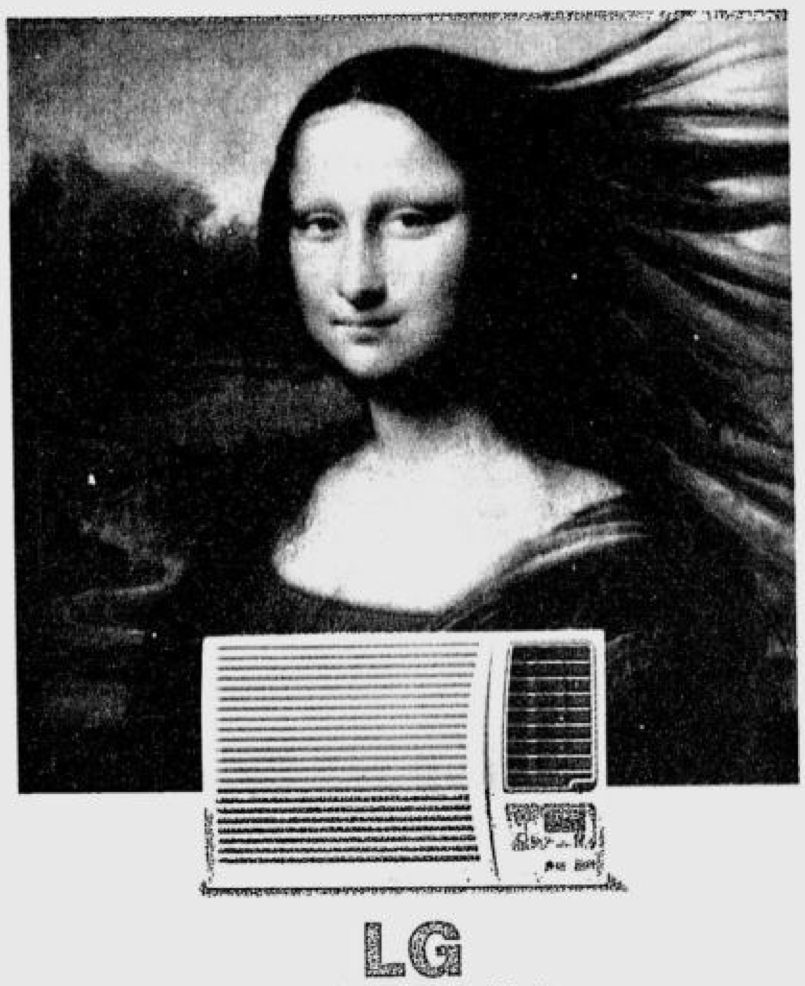

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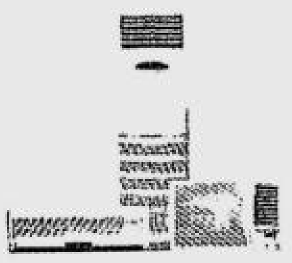

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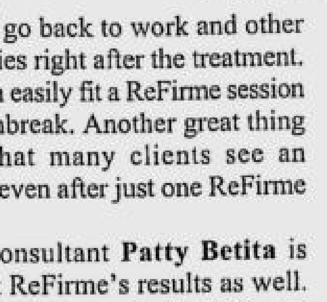
THE ULTIMATE NON-ABLATIVE METHOD TO TIGHTEN LOOSE, SAGGING SKIN

Drooping, sagging skin. Crow's feet. Wrinkles. Laugh lines. Do these look familiar? While few may get away with hiding their age, the condition of one's skin cannot lie. Droops, lines and sags all shout "old age." This is because as we get older, skin cells replace themselves more slowly. The skin's elastin and collagen fibers, which make the skin stretch and retract, begin to loosen. The skin no longer retains moisture as it used to. This makes it less elastic, causing it to sag and fold. Crow's feet and crease lines also form on the brow and eye areas. Even the skin of the neck starts to sag as well.

Carmi Martin

Finally a revolutionary treatment to tighten skin has been invented, without the need for surgery or injections! This skin tightening breakthrough is called **ReFirme**, and it does just that. It "re-firms" your skin. It uses the combination of light and Bi-Polar Radio Frequency to repair lax, sagging skin. It also removes lines and can treat jowl and neck laxity, sags under the eyes and brow lines, and smile lines.

Actress and interior design consultant **Carmi Martin**, who has been one of the first few to try ReFirme, has nothing but praises for it. "I've noticed that as I got older, I got sags in my eye area and some laugh lines. Even if my skin was okay, the droops made my face look tired. When I tried ReFirme, I was relieved it wasn't painful at all! I think I even fell asleep. The results were most noticeable on the 3rd day. As in I was really surprised! My laugh lines were lessened. Even the sags in my eye area – gone. And this was only after one treatment ha! I definitely recommend this to busy women who want an instant lift without the surgery."



Patty Betita

ReFirme is a safe, non-invasive treatment that is virtually painless. The whole procedure takes only about 45 minutes, and no recovery time is necessary. One can even go back to work and other normal activities right after the treatment. In fact, one can easily fit a ReFirme session during a lunchbreak. Another great thing about it is that many clients see an improvement even after just one ReFirme treatment!

Image consultant **Patty Betita** is ecstatic about ReFirme's results as well. "Wow, I was so impressed with ReFirme! I didn't feel any pain during the treatment. Plus I not only saw, but *felt* results immediately after! As in right after the treatment! My skin became firm and the laugh lines disappeared. When my friends saw me after the treatment, they asked me if I had Botox done or something. I told them about ReFirme and how much I loved it! I plan to make this part of my beauty regimen. Amazing! I'm totally satisfied."

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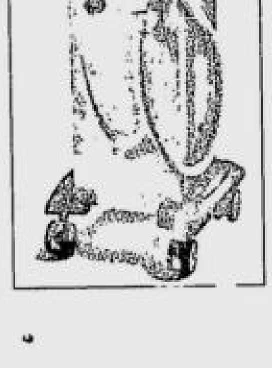

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Lawyer seeks disbarment of Secretary Gonzalez

From page A1

Lawyer Ely Pamatong filed the disbarment case against Gonzalez in the Supreme Court's Office of the Bar Confidant, calling his offer to the barangays in his home province "highly immoral."

Pamatong also cited Gonzalez's statement that US Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell was "careless" for hiking alone on an Ifugao mountain trail when she was killed last month.

"Dancing in the glow of power," Pamatong said in his petition, "Gonzalez has been displaying and exhibiting his lunar authority and privileges like a rogue elephant. Sycophantic and unrestrained, his tongue whimsically wags and emits caustic, sarcastic, unjust and abusive remarks at anyone who displeases him."

Reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson of the Genuine Opposition lodged a criminal complaint against Gonzalez, calling it a "test case" for Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, Gonzalez's predecessor in the Department of Justice.

Apart from accusing the DOJ chief of vote-buying and "attempted corruption" of public officials, Lacson noted the justice secretary's "blatant disregard of our laws" and "apparent lack of remorse."

Asked for comment, Gonzalez said: "I do not dignify nuts ... Mr. Pamatong is a nut and he could do what he wants."

In 2004, Pamatong gained wide publicity for strewing metal spikes on Edsa, damaging the tires of more than 100 vehicles, following his disqualification as a "nuisance candidate" in the presidential election.

'I am not concerned'

Gonzalez also shrugged off Lacson's graft case. "I am not concerned about it because Mr. Lacson does not know what he's talking about regarding graft and corruption," he said.

Gonzalez earlier defended his P10,000 offer, saying he was not a candidate in the May elections and that he was not using public funds but his wife's earnings from her poultry farm.

He has also said he was unfazed by the Commission on Elections' investigation of his offer.

In his petition, Pamatong said Gonzalez violated the Code of Professional Responsibility. He also said Gonzalez had no reason to blame Campbell for her death and that his statement on the incident put the country in a bad light.

"The plainest principle of common sense and common justice says that there was absolutely no need for Secretary Gonzalez to make any comment virtually blaming the dead for walking alone," he said.

Pamatong also castigated Gonzalez for making a "sexist comment" against Susan Roces, widow of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., although he did not specify what it was.

'Love to catch him'

In media interviews, Lacson said Gonzalez had practically "announced to the public that it is OK to cheat as long as you win in the elections."

"I would love to catch him handing out the money," he quipped.

GONZALEZ

LACSON

PAMATONG

The complaint stressed that "clearly, the said promise or offer was designed to influence, induce or persuade the said barangay officials to vote and to work doubly hard for a 12-0 vote in favor of Team Unity, an act which is tantamount to vote-buying and punishable under the Omnibus Election Code."

It said Gonzalez's pronouncements "clearly show the blatant disregard of our laws by no less than the Secretary of Justice who should for all intents and purposes be the epitome of honesty and justness."

"By his own words and apparent lack of remorse for what he has committed," it said, "(Gonzalez) evidently violated the mandate of the Constitution with respect to the conduct required of public officers."

Lacson warned that Gonzalez's offer would have "a far-reaching effect as this will make the officials concerned and the public in general complacent and look the other way even in the face of massive cheating that will be committed just to ensure the victory of Team Unity candidates."

Sizzling, steamy nights traced to global warming

From page A1

They said the local warming trend coincided with global trends reported by the Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of international experts set up in 1988 to look into the issue of human-induced climate change and its impact.

According to the IPCC, 11 of the last 12 years were the warmest years in the world since 1850.

In the Philippines itself, there has been "a significant increase in the frequency of warm nights and ... a significant decrease in the number of cold days," acting Pagasa Director Martin Rellin Jr. said in a forum at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

Rellin said Pagasa had noted a significant increase in the frequency of hot days and warm nights from 1961 to 2003.

There was also a significant decrease in the number of cold days and nights, he added.

Hottest days, coldest nights

Pagasa has yet to update its figures. But if the temperatures are any indication, the trend has continued at least until 2006, it said.

From 1951 to 2006, the maximum temperature (hot days) has increased by .349 Celsius while the minimum temperature (warm nights) has risen by .887 C, Pagasa officials said.

The bureau discovered the trend after comparing the hottest days and coldest nights in a given year with the average mean temperature each year beginning 1961, officials said.

Longer droughts

"These are based on our observations. These are due to climate change," Rellin said.

Pagasa said the average mean temperature increased by .66 C from 1961 to 2005 and attributed this to the warming of the climate.

"There were more frequent hot days, and hot nights, but less frequent cold days and cold nights, and frost over the last 50 years. There are more intense and longer droughts since the 1970s," Rellin said.

The IPCC had also projected the global mean temperature to rise by .2 C for the next two decades, and to increase between 1.1 C and 6.4 C during the 21st century.

The increase in temperature would trigger a sea-level rise and changes in precipitation that could impact on health, agriculture, forest, water resources and species, it said.

Sea level in Manila, elsewhere

Rellin said that Pagasa had detected a slight rise in sea level in Manila, Legazpi, Davao, Jolo and Cebu.

"And the possible impact is there is an increased coastal flooding, enhanced coastal erosion, salt water intrusion, impacts of storm surge magnified," he said.

To adapt to global warming, Pagasa is conducting research and development on climate change, hazard and climate-risk mapping, and information dissemination on weather-climate hazards, among others.

Bleaching of corals

Reacting to WorldWide Fund for Nature's projection that half of Navotas would be submerged in water owing to global warming, Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro said it would be too early to make such a projection.

"It's hard to comment without scientific data. There's a need to generate scientific data before we can come up with definite statements," Alabastro said.

Global warming refers to the increase in the Earth's mean temperature arising from enhanced greenhouse emissions.

Apart from a rise in sea level, residents living in coastal areas have to grapple with the bleaching of the corals as temperatures get warm, according to an official of the Philippine Council for Aquaculture and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD).

Effects on biodiversity

Coral reefs are threatened because of carbon dioxide concentration resulting in the acidification of seawater. An increase in sea surface temperature causes bleaching in corals and has adverse effects on biodiversity.

"In our monitoring, the corals in some marine protected areas have whitened because of the warm temperature. The coverage is extensive," said Cesario Pagdilao, PCAMRD deputy executive director.

Pagdilao said that, for instance, the corals in the waters off Batangas had been bleached by the warm temperatures.

To mitigate the impact on the fisheries, PCAMRD advised the government and the public to keep tabs of lakes, rivers and fishponds.

It said the government should establish more marine protected areas in waters where coral bleaching may occur, as well as promote seaweed farming in suitable areas to reduce carbon dioxide concentration in seawater.

May 1, 2007
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We are appalled by the attitude of some of our political leaders who would use their influence and connection, money and resources of government to attain their goal of winning in this election without regard for a sense of *delicadeza.*

We are concerned about the plight of our fellow Filipinos who are living in sub-human conditions because of poverty brought about by lack of opportunities for employment and other sources of livelihood.

We believe that progress and development can only happen if we elect the right leaders who have the vision, personal integrity, competence and the charisma to inspire unity and cooperation among the citizenry.

We resolve that social transformation can begin with ourselves as we continue to commit ourselves to make a difference in our homes, work places and communities.

We aim to bring about a better tomorrow for our country by exercising vigilance in making our public servants accountable in their performance of duties.

Thus, we are looking for candidates who possess leadership qualities and are more than willing to be appraised according to the following set of criteria. *(This can be downloaded from our website: www.sagipka2000.org)*

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Guidelines in Choosing Candidates for Elective Positions

1. **HONESTY AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY** – The leader speaks the truth. S/he ensures transparency in government. S/he does not engage in nor tolerate graft and corruption in his/her scope of influence.
2. **HARD WORKING AND SERVICE-ORIENTED** - S/he is competent, willing to serve, and can identify with the *common tao*. S/he puts others and the community above himself/herself in public service and works hard for the common good.
3. **NON-VIOLENT AND PEACE LOVING** - S/he resolves problems and conflicts through dialogue and peaceful means. S/he trusts his/her people and his/her clear conscience to protect him/her from harm in the exercise c "his/her duties. S/he does not have goons or a private army to protect his/her interest.
4. **INSPIRES UNITY AND COOPERATION** - S/he listens to his/her people and leads through participatory management. S/he draws cooperation without discriminating others even his/her own political adversaries. S/he works with his/her people with a vision for the common good.
5. **PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT** - S/he has concrete programs on solid waste management, reforestation, clean air and water, etc. to protect and promote the integrity of creation. S/he does not exploit and destroy the natural resources.
6. **CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE DISADVANTAGED** - S/he gives priority to quality education and equal protection of the poor, marginalized and deprived members of society, especially the children, women and elderly.
7. **RESPECTS THE RULE OF LAW** - S/he is a law abiding citizen, upholds the Constitution and the rule of law. S/he applies the laws with justice, without fear and favour, to protect and respect human dignity.
8. **PROMOTES NATIONAL INTERESTS** - S/he is an advocate of Filipino Excellence. S/he defends fair trade in an environment of liberalization and globalization. S/he promotes the arts and culture, supports sports, preserves our historical and national patrimony.
9. **GOD FEARING AND FAMILY ORIENTED** – S/he does not violate the original 10 Commandments. S/he is always faithful and loving to his family. S/he believes in God by practicing his religion and respects other beliefs that promote the welfare and good of everyone.

CANDIDATE'S PERFORMANCE RATING

Name: ____________________
Position: ____________________
Town/City/Province: ____________________

CRITERIA	RATING 5 4 3 2 1	REMARKS
1. HONESTY & PERSONAL INTEGRITY	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
2. HARD WORKING & SERVICE-ORIENTED	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
3. NON-VIOLENT & PEACE LOVING	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
4. INSPIRES UNITY AND COOPERATION	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
5. PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
6. CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE DISADVANTAGED	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
7. RESPECTS THE RULE OF LAW	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
8. PROMOTES NATIONAL INTERESTS	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
9. GOD FEARING AND FAMILY ORIENTED	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
AVERAGE:		

Rating: 5 - Excellent 3 - Satisfactory 1 - Poor
4 - Very Good 2 - Fair

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 1, 2007
Joseph, the Worker

1st Reading: Gen 1:26-2:3 (or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24)
Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary

The telling of creation reminds us that each of us is made in the divine image: man and woman together reveal the glory of God. And all that God has made has been entrusted to us. We are given dominion but it is the dominion of an interdependent world. And part of the dominion is to rest, to contemplate the goodness of God in imitation of the One who gives us life and sustains us. It is the image of those who work, who create, who bring life and nurture it.

Christ's peace is what is to reign in our hearts as the Body of Christ. We are to work/live with thanks, with peace for the glory of God the Father, in the name of Jesus. We are to work with our whole being and do the work of God in the world, transforming and making all holy. We are the slaves of the Lord, sent to free the world, revealing its goodness.

Joseph was a father, a husband and a worker, a carpenter, a man made holy by his work and his relationships in the place he lived-Nazareth. And he taught Jesus his trade, working with him, building, felling trees, making crosses for the Romans out of rough-hewn trunks. He protected his family, sheltered them, cared for them, and he sought to live with dignity and freedom, and he instilled those virtues and hopes in his son, Jesus. We are made holy in the places we live, dwell, study, work, and seek to make hospitable and welcoming.

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Raps readied in attack on Inquirer man

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—ELEVEN days after the botched attempt on the life of INQUIRER correspondent Delfin Mallari Jr., police are set to file charges against the suspected driver of the motorcycle used by the gunman, according to a police official.

"We are just waiting for the copy of the complaint from Mr. Mallari so we can formally charge the suspect," said the officer who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

He, however, clarified that the case was far from being "solved."

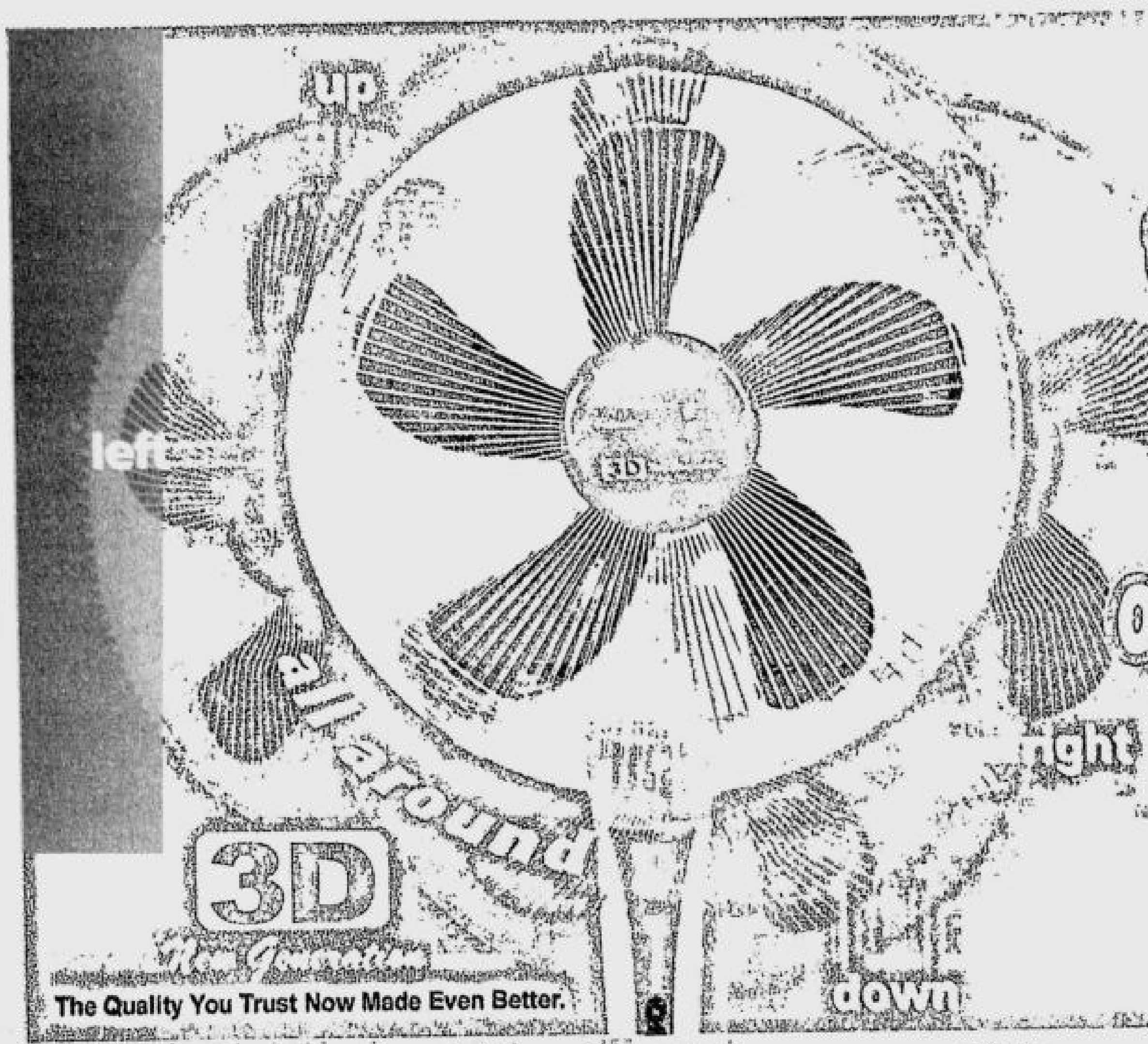
"We [still] have to identify the mastermind. Once we get convictions for the mastermind and the assailants, only then can we say we had solved the case," he said.

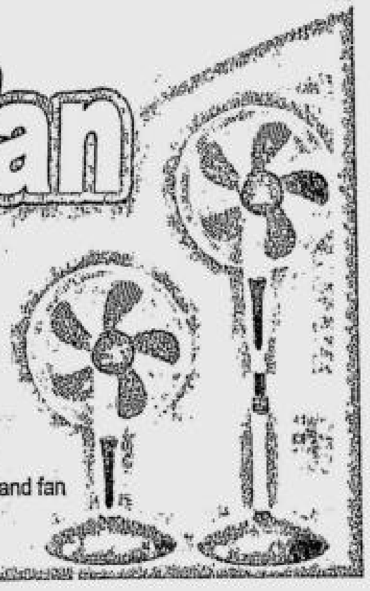
Mallari has accused Quezon Rep. Raffy Nantes, who is running for governor of the province, of being behind the attempt to kill him in Lucena City on April 19.

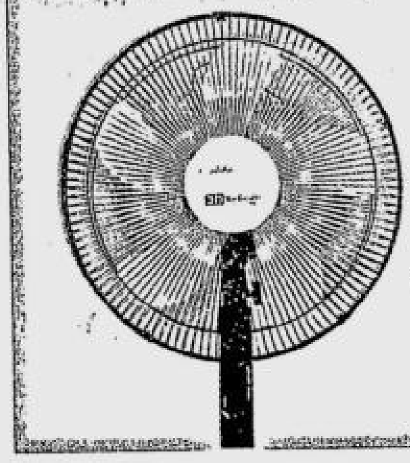
Mallari surmised he drew the ire of Nantes after he linked the lawmaker to alleged wrongdoing, including the illicit drug trade in Quezon.

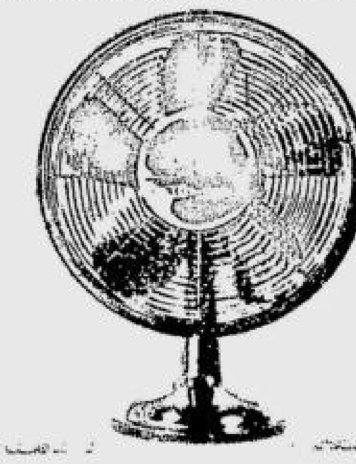
Nantes has vehemently denied the allegations, saying they were rehashed issues revived by his political rivals.

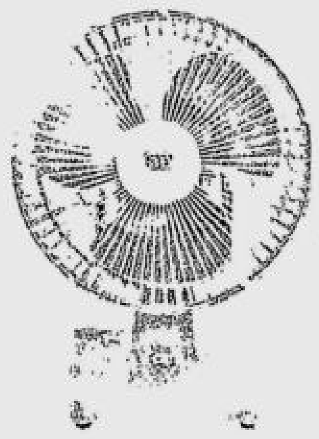
Mallari was shot in the back as he drove to the radio station where he hosts a show with ABS-CBN reporter Johnny Glorioso. Glorioso was with him at the time but escaped injury. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*











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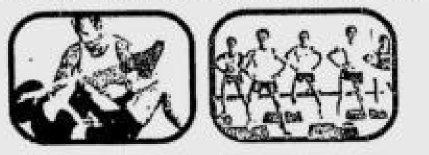

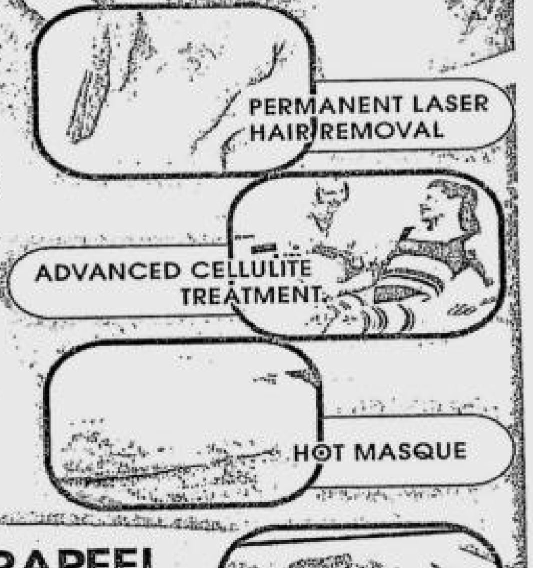

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Pangasinan mayor gives thumbs-up to son before ...

From page A1

bullets were pumped into his body by unidentified men who attacked him and his security escorts.

At least 31 people have been reported killed so far nationwide as rival candidates, many of them members of long-established political clans, stepped up their efforts to woo voters ahead of the May 14 polls.

The mayoral seat in San Carlos is being hotly contested by Julier, a candidate of the Lakas-CMD, and former Mayor Douglas Soriano of the Partido ng Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas.

Comelec control

In San Carlos, Commissioner Romeo Brawner recommended placing the city under the control of the Commission on Elections following the killing.

Although his announcement is subject to the confirmation of the commission en banc, Brawner said he was "very sure the Comelec will confirm it because the situation calls for it.

"We thought he was getting better the night before, because his blood pressure had risen after he was operated on," Julier said.

Before his father was brought to St. Luke's, Julier said "he held my hand and tried to remove the tube from his mouth so he could talk."

"He was trying to open his eyes and to talk. But he just held my hand and made a thumbs-up sign," he said.

Black cloth

A black cloth covered the façade of the San Carlos City Hall, contrasting with the colorful fiesta buntings decorating the streets.

Resuello's civilian security aide Eulogio Martinez died instantly when he shielded the mayor with his body.

Another security aide, SPO2 Jaime Almoite, was shot twice in his lower body.

Almoite said he and the mayor were shot simultaneously by the gunmen. "I was shot with a .45-cal. gun and the mayor was shot with a 9-mm gun," he said.

He said he fired at one of the assailants who fled as people screamed and scampered for cover.

City officials and employees offered prayers and lit candles at the auditorium on Monday morning. Some of them wept openly.

Resuello's body was expected in San Carlos last night and a wake would be held at the campaign headquarters beside his house in the city proper.

Death threats

The younger Resuello said he last talked to his father during the night of the shooting, when the mayor expressed happiness at the huge crowd turnout at the city plaza.

"He knew of the threats on his life that night, but he decided to mingle and shake hands with the people after he got overwhelmed with the happy atmosphere," Julier said.

The vice mayor said he was counting on the Philippine National Police to solve the crime and arrest the perpetrators.

"I am also calling for the support of our beloved President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the immediate resolution of this case," Julier said.

The younger Resuello, who also revealed that he had been receiving threats that he would be killed next, said he had an idea of who the mastermind behind the killing was, but he had yet to confirm it.

"I'm leaving the case to the police," Julier said, stressing that he was sure the killing was "politically motivated" because his father—also a well-known businessman in Pangasinan—had no enemies when it came to his enterprises.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he was "very angry" at what happened in San Carlos, and noted that elections were "fast becoming a curse rather than a blessing."

Cruz will lead an ecumenical prayer rally on Friday to "show the residents that they should not be afraid."

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ENROLLMENT GOING ON!

GMA calls on military to help ...

From page A1

direction, and dismissed concerns the military would be used for cheating during the polls.

"I am calling on the Armed Forces to reinforce the police, under Comelec authority, to stop election violence and move forcefully against those using threats and intimidation for partisan ends," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

She ordered that "checkpoints must be manned vigilantly 24 by 7 (24 hours a day, seven days a week) and all unauthorized firearms held."

"Cases of election violence must be speedily investigated and cases filed promptly. All identified private armies must be preempted and dismantled," she said.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said during the weekend that 52 of 90 known private armies controlled by politicians nationwide had been dismantled.

Ms Arroyo also warned candidates not to employ violence. Some of those who figured in violent incidents last week belonged to the administration coalition.

'Don't defy the law'

"I strongly urge candidates of all parties and persuasions to keep tensions at bay and not to test or defy the authorities," Ms Arroyo said.

The death toll in preelection violence rose to 31 after Mayor Julian Resuello of San Carlos City died from bullet wounds he sustained in a gun attack during a fiesta on Saturday night. *(See related story on Page A1).*

PNP officials said the death toll was fewer than the 148 killings which marred the 2004 elections and the 98 deaths recorded in the 2001 congressional and local polls.

Ms Arroyo's order for military involvement in curbing election violence came after the AFP had been relegated to a "minor role" in polls.

Following allegations that some generals and soldiers were used to tamper with the results and help Ms Arroyo win in the 2004 presidential election, the role of the AFP had been limited to helping secure Comelec personnel in "areas of critical concern" or where there are armed groups threatening to disrupt the balloting.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the AFP would help the PNP "especially in areas that the Comelec has declared under Comelec control so there are more resources that can be used to prevent or check incidents of political violence."

Bunye said it would be up to the Comelec to decide the areas and the extent of the AFP's role.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., said it was the poll body that should make the final decision on the deployment of troops.

"She is the Commander in Chief. If it is a purely military operation, it has to be respected," Abalos said in a press conference, referring to Ms Arroyo's order.

Nonetheless, Abalos said there should be a coordination between the Comelec and the AFP to decide where military troops would be sent to augment the police forces.

"It is still the Comelec that will decide," he stressed. "Comelec will call the shots."

Abalos' assurances

Asked what assurances the Comelec could give that the military would remain nonpartisan, Abalos replied that in areas where "there is no hint or expectations of violence, the military will just stay in their barracks."

"Any sightings of military presence in areas where they should not be should be reported to us," he said.

"The AFP should remain on standby in areas that have not been placed under Comelec control or considered under immediate concern," he added.

Abalos also said that Election Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. was studying the possibility of placing the third and fourth districts of Batangas under Comelec control. Tuason is the commissioner in charge of the province.

Election Commissioner Romeo Brawner, on his authority, placed San Carlos under the Comelec control.

Abalos said that all election commissioners had agreed that they could have individual authority to place a province under Comelec control even without a Comelec en banc resolution.

This is to expedite the process, Abalos said.

Once a province is placed under Comelec control, all gun ban exemptions issued to civilian gun owners will be revoked, he said.

Henrietta de Villa, national chair of the Parish Pastoral Council of the Philippines (PPCRV), agreed with Ms Arroyo's move to deploy the military in "some areas." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan*

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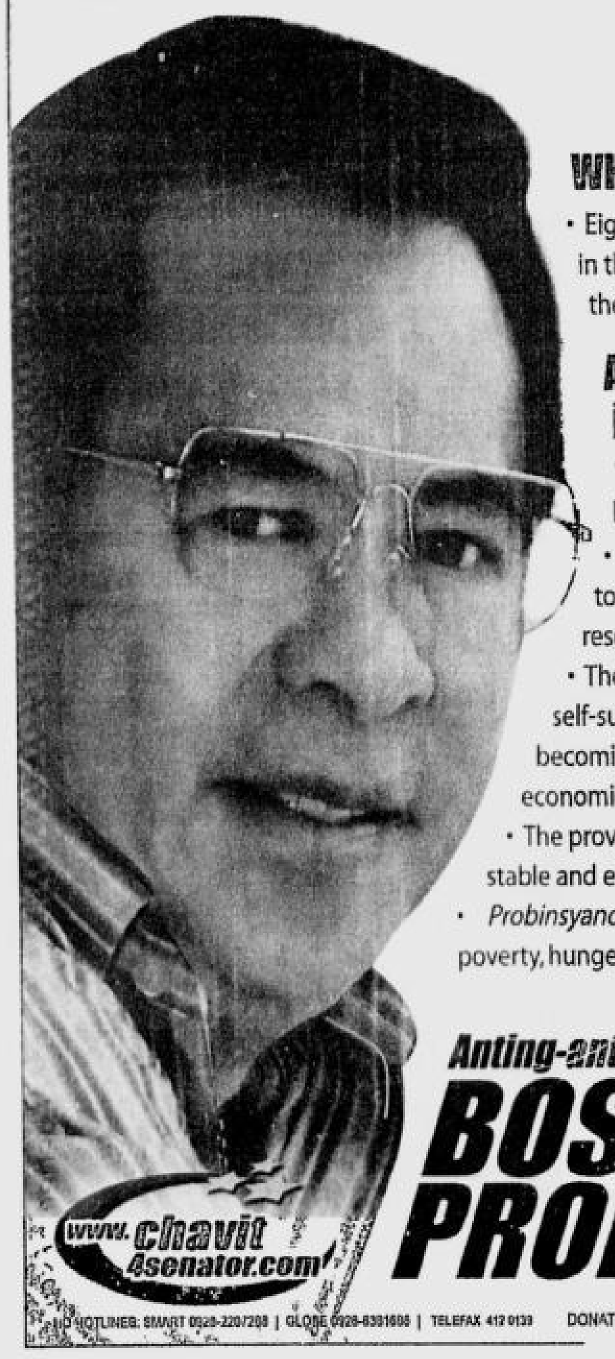

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Where's the son of Joe Burgos?

From page A1

only state security forces will have the motive and gall to carry out," said Desaparecidos spokesperson Ghay Portajada.

Police mounts investigation

Director General Oscar Calderon of the Philippine National Police has ordered PNP Task Force Usig to look into the young Burgos' whereabouts, said Director Geary Barias, head of Usig, which was formed last year to look into extrajudicial executions.

"This particular case is given proper attention because of the missing person's status, his father being a national figure in promoting press freedom," Barias said.

Edith Burgos said she last heard from her son on April 28 when he replied to a relative's text message.

"We were supposed to have a family meeting that night, one of our more important meetings where we would discuss the future of We Forum," Edith told the INQUIRER after the news briefing.

Joe Burgos, a pioneer of the alternative press during martial law, was the former publisher of We Forum and Malaya newspapers. The International Press Institute honored Burgos as one of the world's 50 Press Freedom Heroes of the Century, the only Filipino in the list.

"Jonas had sent us a text message around 6 p.m., saying he was on his way home from SM North Edsa," Edith said.

Training

Jonas, an agriculture graduate of Benguet State University, had conducted an organic farming training earlier that day in San Miguel, Bulacan, to members of Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan (AMB), a chapter of militant peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Edith said the family was mystified when a relative, after asking Jonas where he was, received a text message from him that said: "*Bukas na tayo magkita* (Let's meet tomorrow)."

"It did not make any sense to us because he had no appointment with his relatives the next day," Edith said.

His family then sent text messages to his cell phone the whole night. They received an answer from him the following day at 10:46 a.m. Jonas said, "*Sensya na, ligo lang* (I'm sorry, was just taking a bath)."

After an exchange of confusing text messages, the Burgos family called Jonas up, but his answers were unclear and he sounded like he was drugged. His phone stopped ringing at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Edith said.

2 missing companions

The family later learned that Jonas, who is married and has a 1-year-old daughter, had disappeared with colleague Melisa Reyes and another unidentified male companion.

The Reyes family reported that Melisa had failed to come home in the evening of April 28, like Jonas.

"We know who may have abducted him, considering his connections with KMP," Edith said. She, however, refused to reveal the identity of the possible abductors.

AMB and KMP are both militant peasant organizations that advance agrarian issues and the struggle of farmers in Central Luzon.

"We appeal to the hearts and conscience of those who know about my son's whereabouts to let us know about his condition," Edith said.

She added, "If they think he has done anything, we ask them to give the family a chance to defend Jonas." *With reports from Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio*

IN THE KNOW

188 listed as missing since 2001

AS OF MARCH 2007, the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), an organization founded in 1985 by relatives, friends and colleagues of desaparecidos, had listed 188 cases of disappearances in the country since 2001.

Last year, 77 people were reported missing, an almost 200 percent jump from the 26 recorded in 2005.

The most prominent case last year was that of the University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño, 22, and Sherlyn Cadapan, 29. The two were reportedly roused from sleep in the early morning of June 26 at their rented home in Hogonoy, Bulacan, by loud pounding on the door, and were seized by armed men wearing bonnets as the two students stepped out.

The militant League of Filipino Students, of which Empeño was a member, blamed the military for the abduction. The two women have yet to be found.

On April 12, Anakpawis party-list nominee Nilo Arado and Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) spokesperson in Panay Ma. Luisa Posa-Dominado were abducted by unidentified armed men in Oton, Iloilo, while on their way to attend an Anakpawis assembly. The two have been missing since.

FIND's figures showed that the Marcos regime had the highest number of disappearance cases with 855, followed by the Aquino administration with 612. Of the 188 reported cases under Arroyo's administration, 51 are still missing, 81 surfaced alive while 17 were found dead. ***Maricar Tolosa, Inquirer Research***

Lakas justifies insurance cards

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT HAS DRAWN much criticism as an act of vote-buying, but administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats is standing by its distribution of insurance cards during the campaign.

Lakas-CMD legal counsel Raul Lambino said in a letter to the Commission on Elections yesterday the party was distributing membership cards, which include insurance benefits, to its members.

"There is nothing illegal, much less an act of vote-buying, in the distribution of the cards because they are given to party members who are already captive voters," Lambino said in his letter.

"Lakas-CMD members are proud of what the party has been doing and for taking good care of its members," he wrote.

The Comelec had said it would investigate Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is seeking reelection in Pangasinan, after television news footage showed him distributing insurance cards during a campaign rally.

In his letter, Lambino said De Venecia and other party leaders had given the cards to "members who are being trained as watchers in Pangasinan."

Each card carries a P100,000 accident benefit in case of disability or death and an additional P10,000 for burial expenses. He said the cards were distributed to 2.7 million Lakas members beginning in October 2006. Coverage is from Oct. 17, 2006, to June 30, 2008.

Several groups had earlier pointed out that hiring a multitude of watchers and campaigners could be considered vote-buying since these paid people were also expected to vote for the candidates that had hired them.

Lambino said that as campaigners and poll watchers, Lakas members were entitled under the law to "reasonable allowances or compensation."

"There is the more compelling reason that they should be properly insured for accidents given the precarious situations they occasionally face in our elections," he said.

"These are allowable election expenses which the party or any candidate for that matter can legally do during the election period," he added.

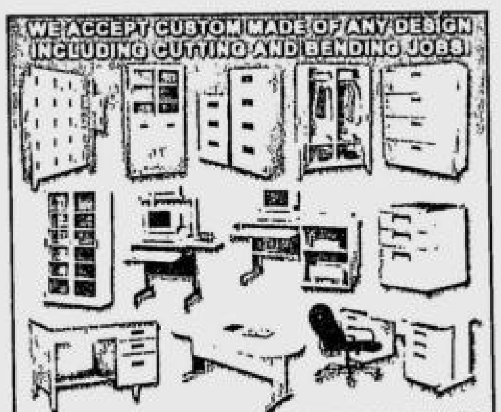
Lambino, who is a nominee of a party-list group and deputy secretary general for legal affairs of Lakas, said the party welcomed an investigation.

Comelec Commissioner Resureccion Borra had earlier said the poll agency would look into the distribution of the cards. *With Nathaniel Melican*

G. Gaborni; 74

GIL TY GABORNI OF Pinabacdao and Calbiga, Samar, died on April 30 after a lingering illness. He was 74.

"Gilgabs," as he was known, is survived by his wife Edith; daughter Gail; sons Ezekiel, Samuel and Joel; son-in-law Beb; daughter-in-law Rowena; sister Linda, and grandchildren Nikki, Tricia, Lisanne, Kyle and Hector. Interment will be on May 5 in Pinabacdao.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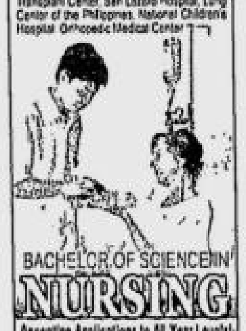
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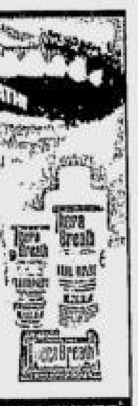
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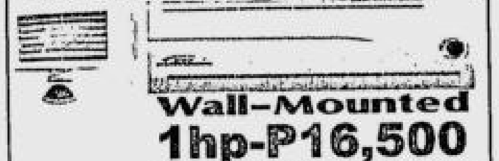
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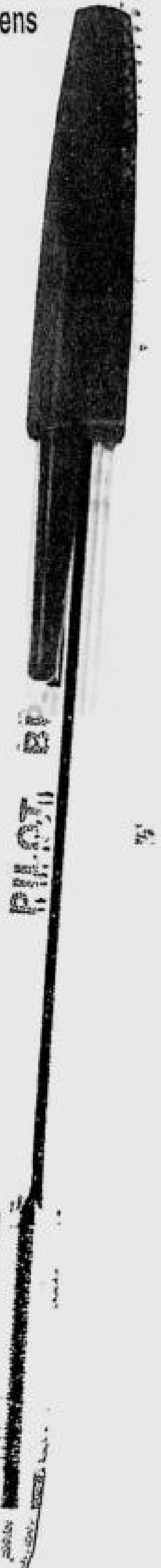
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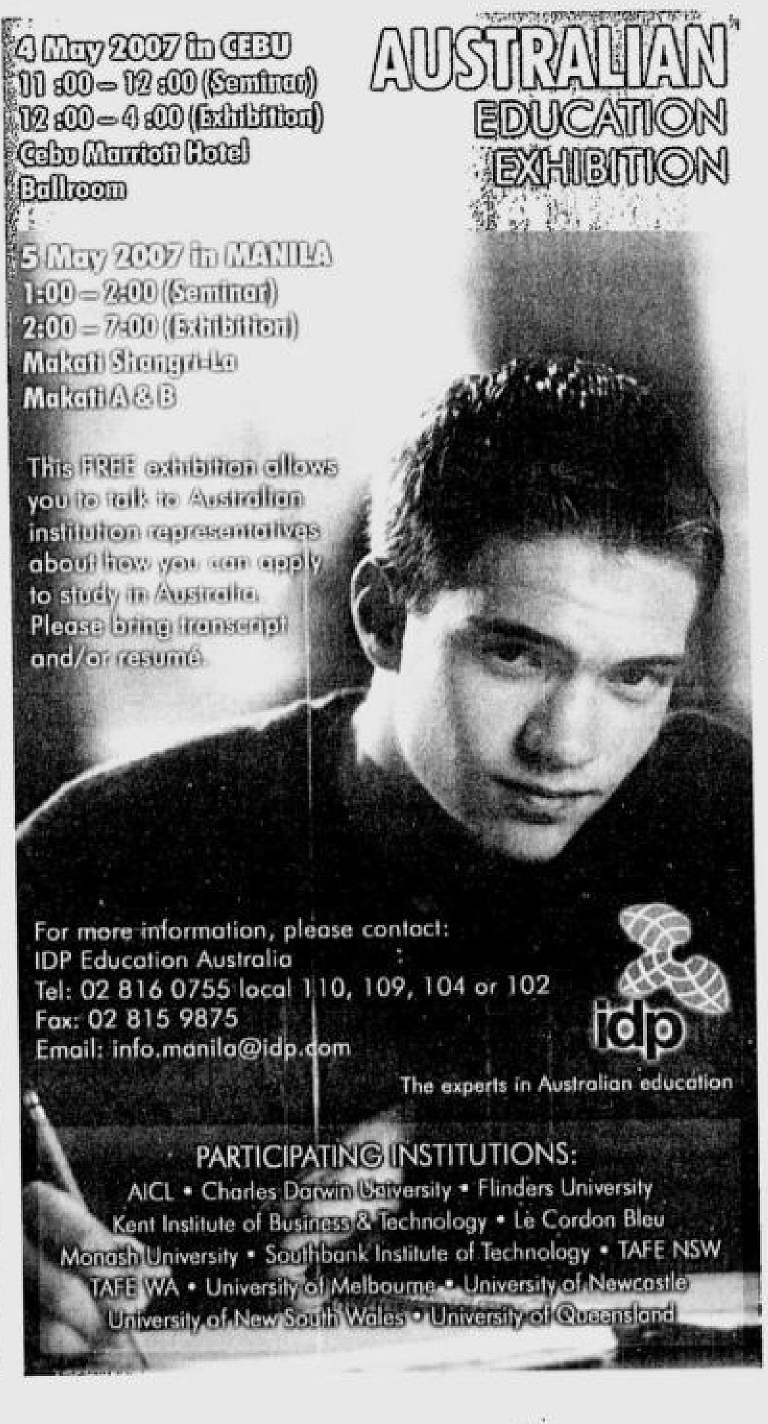
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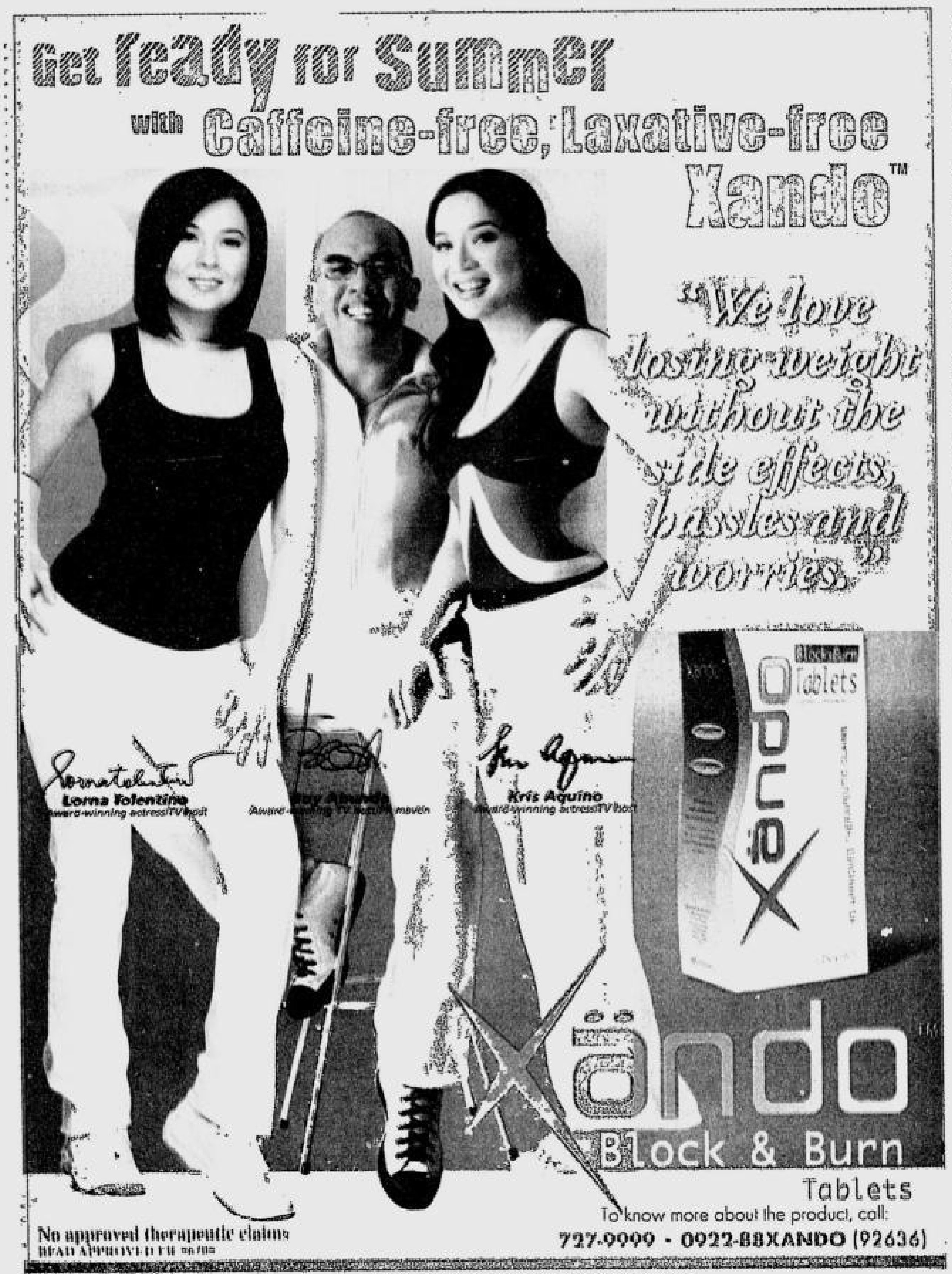
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Lapu-Lapu officials doubt kite caused chopper crash

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene R. Bulambot *in Visayas*
and Tarra Quismundo *in Manila*

CEBU CITY—BARANGAY AND OFFICIALS of Lapu-Lapu City were unconvinced that the crash of an Air Force helicopter last Saturday was caused by a kite's nylon string.

"That's something new," Gun-ob barangay captain Jose Dungog said to the claim of the Philippine Air Force that a flying kite's string got entangled in the helicopter's rotor.

Dungog said the crash site was in a populated area. If there were kites flying, they would be small ones since the bigger kites would require an open, less populated area.

Small kites use thin string, which could not have caused the crash, he said.

The Huey helicopter was seen sputtering above the Mandaue channel before it crashed in the barangay, on two tricycles, killing seven civilians and two crewmen, Dungog said.

Neither was Lapu-Lapu City Councilor Eugene Espedido convinced that kite string had caused the accident.

"It was almost 6 p.m. when the accident occurred, and by that time, kite-flying time was over," Espedido said.

Meanwhile, an investigation team composed of personnel from the Air Force and the Air Transportation Office yesterday found nylon string tangled around the swash plate of the helicopter's rotor system in its rear.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Ike Inserto, commander of the Tactical Operation Command, said the 2-mm thick nylon string boosted their initial finding on why the rotor malfunctioned.

The nylon string had melted, Inserto said.

Acting Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Norma Patalinghug, in a separate interview, said she would be issuing an executive order banning kite-flying within the restricted zone around the Mactan Ebuen Air Base.

Meanwhile, the wife of one of the civilian fatalities has threatened to sue the PAF.

Marina Acampado, wife of Odelon Acampado, a tricycle driver, yesterday said she would file charges against the PAF should it fail to provide financial support for their 8-month-old child.

In Manila, the PAF stood by the reliability of its Huey helicopter despite their age and frequent use.

"There's no new airplane or helicopter. The life of an aircraft is in its proper maintenance and support in terms of spare parts," said Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, Air Force commanding general.

"It is very safe. The UH-1H does not just fail easily... Even without engine power, so long as its rotor is still turning, it can still land... It is a very reliable aircraft," said Brig. Gen. Arthur Macenido, commander of the Cebu-based 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing.

Citing information he had gathered from members of the PAF body investigating the crash, Macenido said the engine of the ill-fated chopper had not even flown half of its maximum flight life.

"The engine is new. It has only flown 1,017 hours," Macenido told the INQUIRER. "The aircraft was airworthy."

He said the pilots who flew the helicopter before the tragic flight noticed nothing irregular.

"I interviewed the two pilots who flew the aircraft before it crashed and they told me there was no problem, that it was running smoothly. I asked if they noticed any unusual sound, and they said there was none," Macenido added.

PAL pays $11-M debt to Miaa

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) YESTERDAY PAID over $11 million (about P517 million) in back dues to the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), the first payment in a compromise that gives the airline seven years to pay P2.9 billion in aeronautical fees from 1995 to 2006.

PAL chief executive officer Jaime Bautista handed two checks for $11.03 million to Miaa General Manager Alfonso Cusi, settling the airline's arrears from April 2006 to February 2007.

"Definitely, the payment will be a big help in our development efforts for other airports. Part of the amount will be used for the expansion of the [Ninoy Aquino International Airport] Terminals 1 and 2," Cusi told reporters in a press conference.

The Court of Appeals had approved the terms of the compromise in March, ending a drawn-out legal battle between Miaa and PAL.

The dispute began when Miaa asked the national carrier to pay aeronautical fees after it was privatized. Aeronautical fees consist of landing and take-off fees, parking fees, lighting charges and tacking fees.

Under the agreement, PAL will pay its current bills and make monthly installments of P34.9 million for the next seven years to settle its unpaid fees. *Tarra Quismundo, with Paolo Montecillo*

Labor Day ngayon.

SWS says survey was for Serge Osmeña

IN VIEW OF THE SPONSOR-AUTHORIZED publication of a commissioned survey in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on April 30, Social Weather Stations said yesterday it was disclosing the survey's pertinent results and technical details to the public.

In a statement, SWS said a national survey sponsored by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III was conducted from March 18 to March 23 on a sample of 2,500 registered voters, for a national error margin of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

It said the questionnaire included a battery of Agree or Disagree items for the purpose of testing for strengths and/or weaknesses of political groups. Such items are not leading statements because they could either be affirmed or denied by respondents.

Some wordings are favorable to the opposition, and some are favorable to the administration, according to SWS. The items are sequenced at random.

The use of survey findings for the design of political advertisements is the responsibility of a sponsor, and not of SWS.

In the past, sponsors favorable to the administration were also commissioned message-testing statements in SWS surveys, and also used the findings in media advertisements.

SWS does not work exclusively for any political group. For the 2007 election race in particular, SWS has conducted national surveys for both the opposition and the administration.

In all cases, SWS said it would issue clarifications or corrections needed to correct any public distortions of its survey findings.

WHITE HOUSE Press Secretary Tony Snow, who is scheduled to begin chemotherapy for a cancer recurrence, told fellow alumni at Davidson College on Saturday that he felt great and planned to return to work on Monday. AP

Bush aide . . .

From page A1

"Cancer frightens so many people that they don't realize the treatment for the disease and the prognosis and the pace of innovation is so much different than we experienced when we were kids," Snow said on Friday in a telephone interview from his home in Virginia.

Snow said he had spent nearly his entire adult life haunted by colon cancer. His mother died of the disease when he was 17.

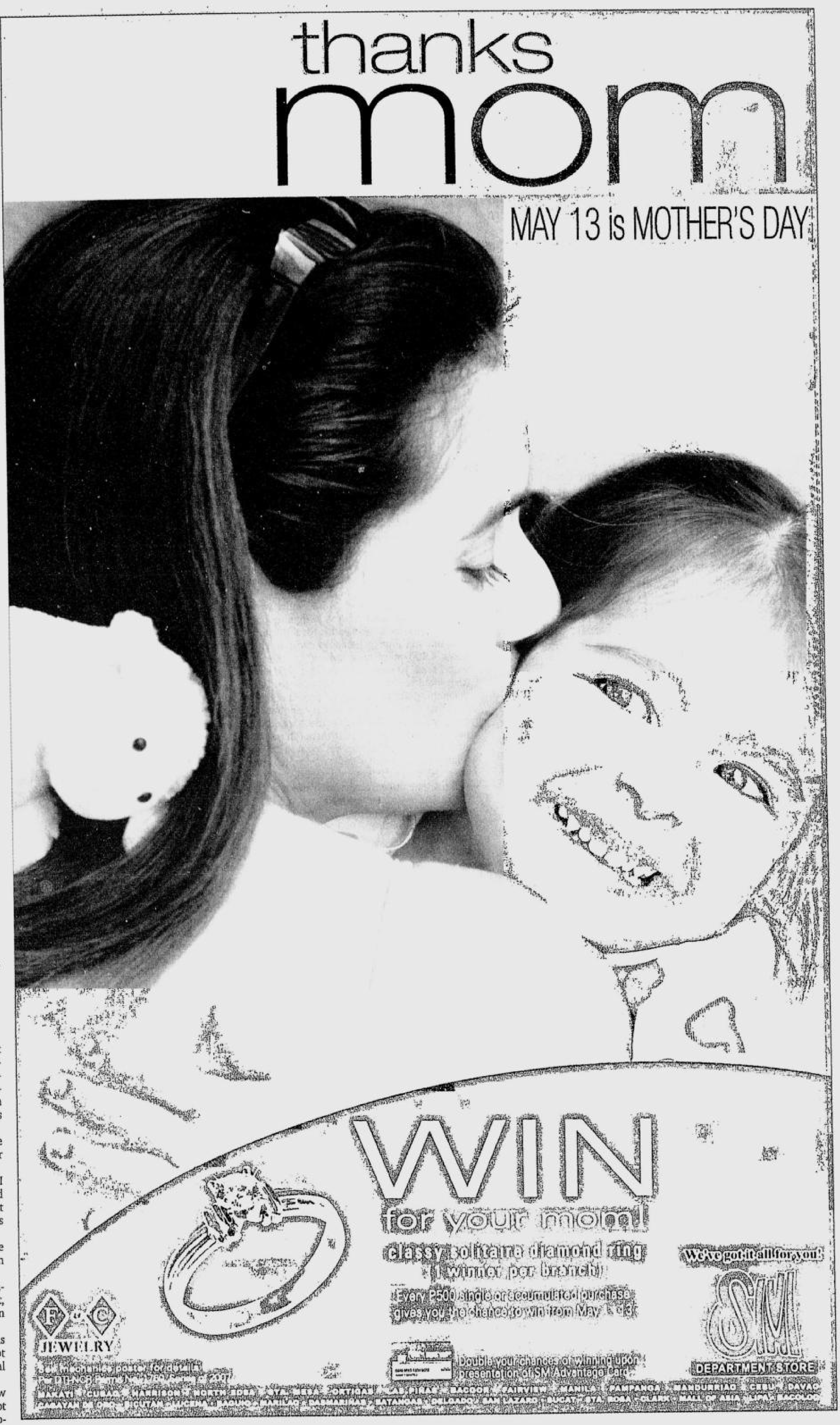
In 2005, he received a diagnosis of Stage III colon cancer, meaning the disease had spread to the lymph nodes but not to other organs. At that time, he underwent surgery to have his entire colon removed.

Experts say the discovery that the disease has spread means Snow has Stage IV colon cancer, the most advanced.

About 60 percent of Stage III colon cancer patients survive five years after initial treatment, but experts say there are no reliable statistics on patients whose colon cancer has recurred.

On Friday, Snow said the recurrence "was harder for my family than for me" and had not caused him the kind of emotional upheaval people might expect.

"Keep in mind, I've been here before," Snow said. "The most emotional part of this has not been getting a diagnosis, but just how nice people have been." *New York Times News Service*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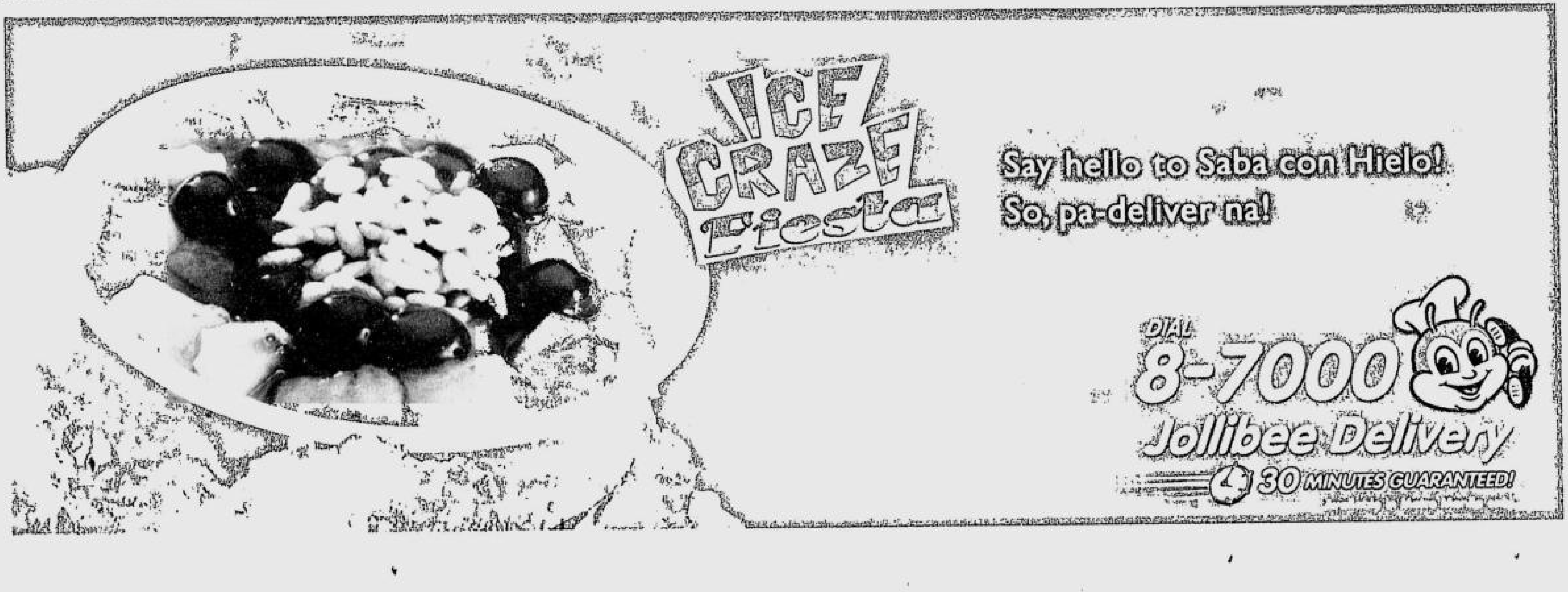
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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO KNOWS what's good for her, her administration and the country, she should let the outspoken and abrasive Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez go. He has committed so many gaffes and gaucheries that he is no longer funny or amusing but has become one big embarrassment to the government and the nation.

As secretary of justice, Gonzalez has made many statements that, instead of advancing the cause of justice, have only resulted in injustice and have worked against the interest of his own people and nation. He is not even witty or suave or civilized in his pronouncements; he is tactless, boorish and crude.

Those who have been following the papers, listening to the radio and watching TV the past year should know by now that Gonzalez has been shooting his big mouth off on almost every big issue that crops up. It would have been good had he been a fount of wisdom and discernment, but he has only muddled the issues, worked against the national interest and made some statements that could be actionable.

Gonzalez showed his bias on the Subic Base rape case at the very start when he suggested that the victim "Nicole" only imagined the rape. He said that the charges against three of the four accused should have been downgraded but he decided to include them in the case "to appease the mob."

When Susan Roces, widow of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., called for Ms Arroyo's resignation, Gonzalez said that Roces was "a griping widow" whose husband was not fated to become president.

Gonzalez vented his ire on the University of the Philippines, alma mater of scholars, militants and activists, and said it has produced only "dissenters and naked runners," referring in the latter phrase to the fraternity men who have made a tradition of streaking once a year in protest against one thing or another.

He tried to discredit the findings of United Nations human rights rapporteur Philip Alston, saying that he was just a *muchacho* (servant) who had no right to meddle and investigate the extradjudicial killings in the Philippines.

Gonzalez reached the height of insensitivity and tactlessness when he said that Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell was "quite careless" and "a little irresponsible" and could have actually courted trouble when she walked alone on a mountain trail.

Accused of promising 18 Iloilo barangay chairmen P10,000 each if they could deliver a 12-0 victory for Team Unity, he denied that he had done anything wrong. As secretary of justice, he should have known that the Election Code considers a crime the act of giving, the act of offering and the act of promising money or anything of value to any person or any organization to induce them to vote for or against any candidate.

In his previous statements, Gonzalez may have only been boorish, tactless or crude. But his promise to give P10,000 to each of the 18 barangay chairmen may be used as the basis of a criminal case against him. The President would do well not to wait for a public outcry to build up against Gonzalez. He has to go, and the sooner he goes, the better.

Blessings

THANK GOD FOR SMALL, TENDER MERCIES during this troubled election period.

Thank God for the finding of the Social Weather Stations that there is such a thing as a conscience vote, and that it counts in an election.

Thank God for the resurgence of people power in Pampanga where thousands are giving of their time, effort and money to support the candidacy of a priest for governor. This will certainly give the voters a third option, and not just a choice between an alleged "jueteng queen" and a purported "quarry king."

Thank God for the many civic and non-government organizations like the iVote.ph team that are conducting voters' education programs, and for the organizations like Namfrel that are preparing to safeguard our votes and ensure that they are properly counted and reported.

God knows that our rotten political system needs a thorough overhaul. The small acts that these civic-spirited organizations are doing could be the starting point of a huge movement seeking a radical change in the political system.

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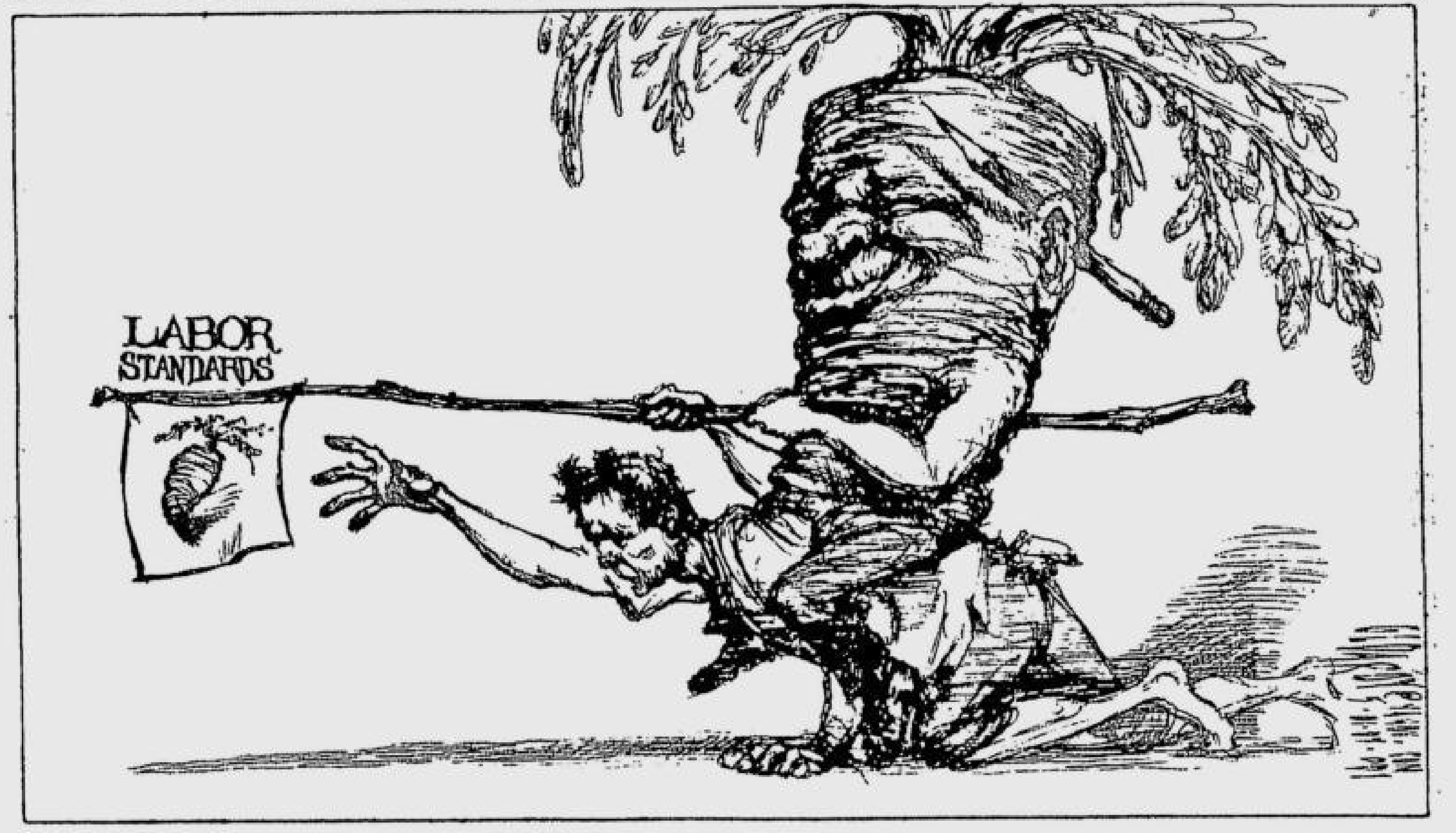

Opaque mirror

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE'S RECENT cover story on Filipino migrant workers, titled "A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves," highlights the raw dilemma that stokes the unstanched exodus of the country's brains and brawn.

In this 10-page spread, Times senior writer Jason De Parle tracks how a swimming pool-maintenance man chucked his Rizal Memorial Stadium job. Emmet Comodas chose to clean pools 4,500 miles away where his Dharhan wages were 10 times more than his Manila pay. That lifted his family of six from penury. But a generation later, the decision still exacts costs.

Others have etched "a human face" on the over nine million Filipino migrants whose remittances prop 14 percent of GDP here. "In no other sizable country do remittances loom as large as a share of the economy." Most reports, however, are snapshots of the present situation.

Intra-generational analysis remains rare. San Carlos University, for example, tracked 3,327 Cebuano mothers, and their 3,080 children born in 33 barangays since 1983. Conclusions from this "Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey" shaped policy from World Bank's health loans to Egypt's programs on water and sanitation.

In contrast, De Parle zeroes in on one family: the Comodases. He draws on the experience of living in a Pasay slum, in the early 1980s, to study urban poverty. He then traces how, over a generation, migration altered the Comodases' lives almost beyond recognition. The result is an "opaque mirror that shows dim outlines" of what OFW families could look like tomorrow.

"Of 11 siblings in the generation (of Emmet and wife Tita), nine either became overseas workers or married one... The nine families ... raised 35 kids." And within that span, they moved from scrap-wood shanties, bordered by stinking canals, to today's semicircle of furnished blockhouses, with TV, water and flush toilets. The Comodases have medical care and sent kids through college. But Emmet missed all their graduations.

"Deprived of their father, while sustained by his wages, the Comodas children spent their early lives studying Emmet's example. Now they've copied it." All five became OFWs. "What started as Emmet's act of desperation has become his children's way of life: leaving in order to live."

"By any measure, the price was high," De Parle notes. Emmet's son Boyet grew into a manhood without a father. A son in Abu Dhabi has never seen his child. Some think aunties are their mothers. Most "hardly know the sacrifices their (parents) made for the blessings of a migrant's wage."

"Overseas prosperity is a gift and an obligation," the Comodases think. Their OFW children now remit money to parents, cousins, godparents, friends, etc, They know they won't be repaid. "Everyone needs help, and you cannot say no," explains a daughter.

But it does spawn unwelcome dependence. And there've been squandering, infidelity, etc. Loneliness is corrosive. A sordid chapter of migrant history was Manila and Tokyo cooperation in making "Filipinas in skimpy clothes became an export commodity": from 17,000 in 1996 to more than 70,000 in 2004. When Tokyo cracked down—finally—Manila protested.

Thin research into "left behind" families found that, for now, migrant children do as well as, or better than, children whose parents stayed home. But soaring remittance tallies cannot measure social costs, De Parle frets. "I was with Emmet and his brother-in-law when they broke into a nostalgic version of 'It's So Painful, Big Brother Eddie,' a 1980s Tagalog classic that immortalizes every migrant's fear."

Despite a nearly-failed marriage, a daughter of Emmet's nonetheless says: "A good provider is someone who leaves." The other horn of this raw dilemma is: "Not migrating has costs, too. Wrenching poverty ... is difficult to tame in a force as brutal as labor migration."

"Left-behind" families, like the Comodases, found Good Shepherd nuns, who lived alongside the poor, "empowered" by training and projects. "Much of the credit belonged to Sr. Christine Tan, who organized a network of prayer groups and cooperative stores." She trained Tita and that unpaid community service instilled confidence.

"Once I found (Tita) studying an English newspaper with a dual-language dictionary. 'What's imperialism?' she asked," De Parle recalls. "When Congress wanted a witness on urban poverty, Sister Christine had Tita testify."

In the Comodas guest room today stands a daughter's large wedding picture. "The woman's confident face shows no trace of a birthright of poverty ... Two generations of labor migration have given her more education, more money ... power and prestige than her mother could have dreamed of on her own wedding day."

True. But beyond abundance of possessions, what does a man's life finally consist of? For first-generation OFW couples, like Emmet and Tita, and the second that have replaced them, Browning's lines ring hollow: "Grow old along with me/ The best is yet to be."

And "Father" or "Tatay" as well as "Inay" and "Mama" mean little for many of their children. No camera can capture this loss and value void.

No country broke free of penury just by remittances, warns the Migration Policy Institute. "Remittances can't compensate for corrupt governments, nepotism, incompetence or communal conflict."

So, what does this unstanched drain mean for the country as yet another generation scrambles for visas and airline tickets even before their diplomas are tucked up ?

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Survey says

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WASN'T SURPRISED BY THE SWS FINDING that popularity rather than machinery won it for candidates—though that needs a tremendous qualification. That may be true for the national elections, but that isn't true at all for the local ones. Or that may be true for the presidential and senatorial races, but that isn't true at all for the gubernatorial, mayoral and congressional ones. At the local level, machinery and resources still call the shots.

That has been patent since 1992, when media, particularly TV, became the dominant factor in elections. It led to the mad scramble by entertainers throughout the 1990s to join politics, a phenomenon that reached its acme in Erap pummeling Joe de V in the 1998 elections—as dramatic a triumph of popularity over machinery as you could find. The entertainers, of course, were the people who had been most thrust in the public eye by media. It didn't take long for people in media themselves, notably TV personalities, to discover the formula and join the fray.

In the local races, however, machinery has remained king. I've always said that if Rudy Fernandez ran for senator rather than for mayor of Quezon City, he might have won.

I wasn't surprised by that finding. What did surprise me—or indeed bowled me over—was the finding that most Filipinos would vote according to social interest rather than self-interest and would follow conscience rather than jump on the bandwagon.

Specifically, most respondents (79 percent) percent chose the statement, "I will vote for a candidate if most will benefit personally from him or her, even if I will not" over "I will vote for a candidate if I will benefit personally from him or her, even if most will not" (21 percent). Just as well, most respondents (77 percent) chose the statement, "One should vote according to one's conscience, whether or not the candidate would win," over, "A vote for a losing candidate would be wasted, therefore one should vote for the candidate who is leading and would probably win" (23 percent).

These are astounding findings, which fly in the face of everything I've seen in local elections over the last so many years. Is it possible a dramatic change has happened in the Filipino voter's psyche while I wasn't looking?

Much as I am desperate to believe that, I doubt it. The explanation probably lies far less in what has happened objectively to the world than in what happens subjectively to Filipinos when asked those questions. Quite simply, the questions do not reflect on the candidates, they reflect on the respondents. The subtext of the first question is: "Are you a selfish bastard who thinks only of yourself and not of the nation?" And the second: "Are you *uto-uto* and can be made to do things by other people, or are you one to do things as you see fit?" Those questions entail a judgment on oneself. Few will want to find themselves wanting.

Of course, you will find people, even Filipinos, who are combative enough or pissed off enough to tell you exactly what they think. "Yes, I'll vote according to what's good for me. Why the hell shouldn't I? Everybody does, not the least the candidates themselves." Or, "Yes, why the hell should I vote for someone who is little better than a nuisance candidate? Might as well vote for someone who can win, or even better someone who can make it worth my while. The only thing my conscience tells me to do is to do right by myself—and my family."

But most other respondents, however they will remain anonymous, will not want to admit—least of all to themselves—that they think only of self and pelf and/or will throw themselves off a cliff simply because other lemmings are doing so.

Not quite incidentally, that finding by the SWS also finds surveys such as those made by SWS not guilty of creating a bandwagon effect. If Filipinos vote according to their conscience and not according to the surveys, then there is no harm in election surveys and they may be permitted to be carried out without any restrictions.

I myself will bet that if for some reason Martin Bautista, Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison of the Kapatiran should find themselves in the "Magic 12" of the SWS (and Pulse Asia) surveys, they will go on to be elected senators. Surveys do have a self-fulfilling quality about them.

I've written repeatedly, and bitterly, against the concept of the "wasted vote" for several years now and believe it, this SWS finding notwithstanding, to be one of the major banes in Philippine elections. That the Kapatiran candidates are not now leading the pack is testament to it. You can't have better candidates that can benefit "most Filipinos" and not just oneself. Yet even friends have wondered if voting for them is not a waste of time, if not of vote, "because they can't win." To which I've always retorted: Candidates do not win by an act of God, they win by an act of man. You vote for them, they win. You don't vote for them, they lose. And you lose.

But I could be wrong, maybe the Filipino voter has finally wised up to the folly of selfishness and/or floundering along with the tide. Who knows? Maybe a miracle is in the offing. Maybe the Kapatiran candidates will have the last laugh after all.

But there is one other thing that has happened over the years, or there is one other element that has been added to national elections apart from popularity and machinery. And which has now become more powerful than either one of them. Popularity and machinery rest on one fundamental premise, which may no longer be taken for granted after 2004. That premise is that our votes will be counted. What is the third element that has been added to Philippine elections? What is the one thing that is now more powerful than either popularity or machinery?

Cheating.

* * *

Tonight, Kapatiran holds a candlelight prayer rally for clean elections at the Quezon Memorial Circle, 5-7 p.m. You believe in voting according to heart and conscience, you might want to be there.

Most interesting gubernatorial fight in Pampanga

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NATION IS WATCHING HOW FR. ED Panlilio, the priest-turned-politician, will fare in the three-cornered fight for governor of Pampanga, against Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected *jueteng* lord Bong Pineda, and Lakas reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid, who faces corruption charges in connection with the quarrying business. The INQUIRER last Sunday reported that Panlilio, who is woefully short of campaign resources, is drawing support from all social classes in Pampanga who see him as the alternative to money politics and as their hope for good and honest governance. This coming together of Kapampangans is being billed as a "new version of 'people power.'"

Ironically, the snag is right in the ranks of the priests in Pampanga. About 70 percent of them support their colleague's political crusade, but 30 percent are said to be committed to Pineda, who has been their patron over the years. Archbishop Paciano Aniceto has not endorsed Panlilio outright, but Pampangos interpret his recent pronouncement to "reject evil and choose the good" as a virtual endorsement. Sources also said the rift among the clergy has caused Aniceto to fall ill recently.

* * *

Among those supporting Panlilio are four prominent election lawyers who normally are at each other's throat at around this time: Romulo Macalintal, Sixto Brilliantes, Leila de Lima and Pete Quadra. The lawyers have offered free legal services to Panlilio and even designed a "poll-watching guide" for his watchers. (I suggest that they give this guide to candidates across the country, too, so that we can truly have clean and honest elections.) Interestingly, even though the citizens of Angeles City cannot vote for their governor as it is a chartered city, they are very much involved in Panlilio's campaign. Lay leaders have organized a rosary novena at the Holy Rosary Parish in Angeles starting this Saturday until May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, to pray for enlightenment, discernment and peaceful elections, and they hope parishes across the province will join the crusade. There's no indication where the two rivals for the mayoralty in the capital of San Fernando, reelectionist Mayor Oscar Rodriguez and Dr. Rey Aquino, stand.

* * *

Until now, President Macapagal-Arroyo and reelectionist Rep. Mikey Arroyo have not said anything in public about the showcase gubernatorial fight in their home province, perhaps deciding to keep their hands off, given GMA's close personal ties with the Lapids and the Pinedas as well as the groundswell for Panlilio. Reports say that when the President went to Hanoi for the Apec Summit late last year, Lilia Pineda, who's running as an independent, also flew there to ask her to keep out of Pampanga politics. There are reports, however, that Lapid has told some people there that if they would not vote for him, they should just go for Panlilio and that ultimately he might withdraw in favor of the priest. That would make the fight even more interesting.

* * *

Earlier I wrote that Speaker Joe de Venecia, who's running for his last congressional term, has been working very hard on the campaign trail, together with wife Gina. The reason may be that his opponent, Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim, is reported to have thrown away all the previous rules of engagement in the district and is indulging in money politics, showering voters with cash and bags of goodies from his malls. This has prompted Archbishop Oscar Cruz to come out with a statement against massive vote-buying and for electoral reforms during JDV's recent courtesy call on him. They jointly agreed that "vote-buying is a worse evil than cheating."

JDV's hard work is paying off. Surveys, such as the one being conducted by Dagupan's No. 1 FM station, "Hot FM," put him way ahead, with scores of 172 vs. 39 for Lim, 142 vs. 58, 129 vs. 39, etc. In addition, he won the endorsement of El Shaddai's Mike Velarde who traveled to Mangaldan last April 27 to raise his hand, and the Baptist and other Protestant groups, as well as of all the colleges and universities of the 4th district, led by Lyceum-Northwestern University headed by Dr. Gonzalo Duque, a former critic. He was also endorsed by the Dagupan Chinese Chamber of Commerce, led by George Cham and Edison Soriano, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the IBP Pangasinan. The things working for JDV are his numerous programs for the district over his five terms, and the fact that as four-term speaker he has brought honor and pride to Pangasinan. If the election results should turn out against JDV on May 14, it has to be because of massive vote-buying.

* * *

Two candidates for House seats worth voting for:

- Lawyer Roman T. Romulo, son of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who's running in Pasig City's lone district. While awaiting the bar results, Roman, a UP Law graduate then training at a law firm, took up, under supervision of a lawyer, an appeal case before the Supreme Court of a death row convict who couldn't afford legal services. Greatly challenged, the young man worked very hard, and to his great happiness, the appeal won and the convict was released. Roman resigned from that firm to run for Congress in 2004, but he was unsuccessful in his first try. That year he put up his own law practice and got involved in community projects. Now he seeks the Pasiguenos' vote once more against Toti Carino, a perennial candidate.
- Lakas reelectionist Rep. Maurice Domogan of Baguio City, who's running against another native, Councilor Joe Molintas. Domogan, whose triumph over the poverty of his early days as an orphan remains an inspiration to the youth, is one of the legal luminaries in the House with an impressive performance as a most industrious lawmaker. He deserves another term.

An 'over-campaigning' candidate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SHE DOESN'T LOOK AT ALL LIKE THE GOVERNOR of one of the largest provinces in the country. This campaign season, she moves about in tight jeans and collared campaign T-shirt, and finishes off the outfit with a pair of high-heeled boots. When we arrive at the provincial capitol, she is about to board a vehicle for an out-of-town sortie, but greets us warmly and ushers us into the building. On the way, she chatters constantly, pointing out a huge tarpaulin poster proclaiming her provincial tourism drive called "Suroy-suroy sa Sugbu," meaning, "Strolling around Cebu," to bring the benefits of tourism to the surrounding towns. Noticing photographer Mandy Navasero, who is part of our group, clicking away, she instinctively poses before the poster, instantly obeying instructions to turn this way and that.

To say that Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia is enjoying politics is simply to stress the obvious. Perhaps politics is just in her DNA, her father being former Gov. Pablo Garcia who had worked his way through various political positions in Cebu, including congressman, before serving three terms as governor. That afternoon, he had been roped in to entertain our group for his daughter who had to be on the campaign trail.

Though he had thought he had "retired" from politics, the older Garcia says he found he missed it too much and is now running for congressman in his old district. When we tease him that he seems much too relaxed to be on campaign mode, he shrugs and says he is counting on his network of mayors in the district. In fact, he says laughing, "I tell Gwen she is over-campaigning."

* * *

LATER, as we meet with Governor Gwen for an after-dinner conversation amid racks of wine, sipping Chablis and nibbling on *tapas* in Tinderbox, an up-scale wine bar and deli, she tells us that the electoral contest she's facing is nothing compared to the hurdles she had to overcome when she first ran for governor.

Then, while not exactly a political neophyte, she was still largely unknown to the people of her province, even if she had worked by her father's side as his executive assistant. Gwen's candidacy, as her father tells it, was the result of an untenable political situation that pitted him against perennial foe John Osmeña (who is now running for senator).

So how did the unknown Gwen prevail against a scion of Cebu's premier political clan? "I campaigned hard and shook every hand I could," she recalls. "I would enter a public market and make my way through every section. When I would get to the other end, the vendors would hesitate to take my hand, apologizing that their hands were dirty. What I'd do was grab their hands anyway, explaining that my hands were dirtier than theirs because I'd already gone through the entire market!"

But her first run for Cebu governor wasn't Gwen's first exposure to politics. As a senior at the University of the Philippines, with just a thesis to complete before graduating with a degree in broadcast communications, Gwen upped and married her boyfriend who was based in Ormoc, Leyte. Together, they built a family and a string of businesses. When the Ormoc tragedy occurred, burying hundreds of people in a catastrophic mudslide, it was Gwen who first called authorities in Cebu, including her brother who was then serving as a provincial board member. And in the days that followed, it was Gwen who became the "voice" of Ormoc, telling the rest of the country what had happened, and giving hope to her city mates. As a result, her father-in-law, a businessman, was drafted to run for mayor of Ormoc (he is now a congressman), even if during rallies it was Gwen whom the crowds clamored to hear.

* * *

SADLY, the marriage didn't survive and Gwen left Ormoc to pursue her college degree and take up law also at UP.

It was during a break before her second year at the UP College of Law that Gwen began to feel pressure from her father to stay in Cebu and help him on his last term. When she expressed her fears to a friend, saying how much she loved studying law at UP, the friend exclaimed: "You mean, you love UP more than your father?"

"That hit me like a bullseye," she states simply. "It was then that I made up my mind to stay in Cebu and help my father."

In 2004, she won the gubernatorial race and succeeded him.

Now running for her second term, the youthful-looking Gwen is ebullient. "I have just been to enemy territory," she confides, meaning the hometown of Rep. Clavell Martinez, who has just completed her third term and is running for vice governor. Another "graduating" congressman, Rep. Antonio Yapha, is running against her.

The governor's campaign slogan is "One Cebu," a jibe against her opponents who, during their terms, had filed a bill to divide Cebu into three provinces. This was so obviously meant to ensure the third-termers' political survival that Cebuanos, led by Gwen, roundly rejected it. "And now, they are also saying they are for one Cebu!" says the governor gleefully.

* * *

THIS contest is no walk in the park, which may be why Gwen is "over-campaigning." Her opponents have raised many issues against her, including one about "over-spending" on the Cebu International Convention Center.

The CICC is why our group was in Cebu over the weekend, the trip organized by the Department of Tourism after the Bulletin's Jullie Yap Daza teased Undersecretary Edu Jarque that there was nothing "international" about it. But a visit to the complex shows that while the CICC is small by international standards, it doesn't lack for events to host.

"I happen to believe a convention center was long overdue for Cebu," says Gwen, noting how tourism arrivals in her province could be greatly boosted by a complex like the CICC.

The unconverted youth

COMMENTARY

Ching Jorge

THE FILIPINO YOUTH PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE in the causes of social justice and political reform in the country. With 41 percent of the population falling under the youth sector (with 19 percent coming from in-school/out of school youth and 22 percent from the young professionals), the numbers indicate the powerful political force that the youth represents. Since the approval of RA 8044 in 1995 or the "Youth in Nation Building Act" and the creation of the National Youth Commission, much more focus has been given on the need for the development and protection of the youth.

Considering the local political scenario and the need for social development and change, the call for more active participation from the youth has never been stronger. With issues of corruption and poor governance combined with a passive working class and an increasing number of children growing up with absentee parents who work as "heroes" of the country, where does the youth fall in?

A number of youth groups belonging to the militant youth, the in-school youth and the young professionals have been actively pursuing changes in the political structure and system, albeit in different manners. Historically, the youth has, in fact, been at the forefront of fervent political protests such as the First Quarter Storm in the 1970s. Not only has the youth taken part in the revolutionary history of the country, but the passion, idealism and perseverance present in the youth has been the seed of many noble individuals of our country.

Still many young men and women remain uninvolved, remain unconverted. The Filipino youth, the remaining hope of our nation, is slowly losing faith in its own country. The emigration of young workers, doctors becoming nurses, young professionals seeking the "American Dream"—these are but some examples of the reality that is facing our country today. Not included are those who have simply given up, thinking that there is nothing that they can do to make things better, nothing that they can say that will make a difference.

> If we do not exercise our rights, if we turn a blind eye to malicious acts against our country and our people, then we would have failed not only our country but ourselves as Filipinos

That is where they are wrong. It is never too late to get involved. It is not a rebellious youth that is being sought, but a youth that expresses and inspires positive reflection and change. There is no need to go to the streets for the voice of the youth to be heard. Though this may be the case for some, our actions in our homes, workplace and communities will speak for themselves, as well as our willingness to express and to acknowledge the wrong from the right and to fight for justice and equality.

It is easy to escape from reality and to put blame on others, but without doing anything or objecting to the wrong that is being done, we contribute to the misery ourselves.

Collectively the youth becomes the strongest voice in the country. Let us be a part of that voice for positive change. The youth cannot work alone to fulfill its own idealism and purposes. It must assimilate itself in society, working together with the citizenry, becoming aware of the struggles and realities of the people in order to bring about effective change.

At times, it may seem easy to believe that we live in our own world, with access to anything and everything that technology or globalization can provide. You are lucky if you are sheltered from the realities, but up to what point will you stay uninvolved and be a foreigner in your own country?

If you are not, what choices do you have? Many. And the first is to fight for your rights.

The upcoming elections will again be a test of the freedom and democracy that our country is so proud of. [If we do not exercise our rights, if we turn a blind eye to malicious acts against our country and our people, then we would have failed not only our country but ourselves as Filipinos.] Let us take part in making the voice of the youth strong, the youth that represents the idealism, courage and nationalism that our forefathers exemplified.

If we cannot look upon the present generation of leaders to bring about the changes that are so much needed in our country, then let us do our part and be the heroes of our generation.

Ching Jorge is program director of Bato Balani Foundation Inc. and the youth convenor of the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (InciteGov) E-mail: chingjorge@gmail.com

Fall from grace

YOUNG BLOOD

Venus Oliva M. Cloma

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE REVALIDA IS THE FINAL EXAMINATION REQUIRED of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. It is composed of two exercises. The first covers basic medical sciences and, if one passes it, the student qualifies for the second exercise. This one requires the student to examine a patient chosen by lot, diagnose him and present investigative and therapeutic plans, and discuss in full a medical or surgical emergency, again chosen by lot.

I did not pass the *revalida*. I had the bad luck of getting a complicated case that I was not prepared to handle. Besides I was picked first to make a presentation and I had very little time to organize my thoughts. The result was dismal.

When the members of my tribunal told me their decision, I thought they were joking at first. When I realized how serious they were, I told them I had never failed a subject or taken remedial courses, that I was class president, hardworking, bright, honest and selfless. That I had organized the graduation, the class party and the retreat. That it was my birthday the next day.

They told me many good doctors they personally knew had also failed their first *revalida*, and the experience made them work harder. Now they are brilliant doctors. They felt that I would turn out the same way.

While they were talking, my heart was breaking. But maybe, so was theirs. They said that in "good conscience," they knew it was what was best for me. I could not help thinking that if it were another tribunal, if my case had been simpler, I would have been graduating. But it is useless to think about that now.

I felt that in an instant, my life had changed. Was it all in vain? All the hard work and sacrifice I had made since I had this dream of becoming a doctor at the age of three, were they all in vain? My life, was it in vain?

With a heavy heart, I told everyone I met on my way out that I had failed. I was very sure the news spread like wildfire. I was part of the UST Medicine Revalida history.

I called my parents and broke their hearts.

In the dean's office, my professors, whom I worked with, reassured me that this was just a temporary setback and that people would not judge me on the basis of just one exam.

I went back to our apartment and broke down. I wept and hugged my sister, and I mourned for what might have been.

After composing myself, I sent a text message to my friends, med and non-med alike that said: "I'm deeply sorry to say that I did not pass the *revalida*. I'm extending clerkship for three months and do a retake. I'm OK. I know in my heart I'll still be a good doctor. Please don't hesitate to talk to me."

Almost immediately, people called and visited me. Those who came were in tears. I tried my best to be strong and comfort them, but ended up in tears myself. In that place of pain and sorrow, I recalled the prayer I grew up with, the prayer of St. Francis: "... Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy..."

I was comforted by the things my friends told me. They told me they knew me as a dedicated student leader, a friend to all, and this failure wouldn't change the way they looked at me. They said they would continue to believe that I would not let this obstacle stop me from fulfilling the dream I have devoted my life to achieving. Even my professors expressed their concern and sympathy.

It was painful to think that instead of inspiring others, I was causing distress.

If there is one thing beautiful that resulted from my disgrace, it is that I have come to realize that my family is bigger than what I thought it to be, that people are loyal and do not forget. For the past four years, I have established strong friendships and gained the respect of my classmates. They know me for my impeccable work ethic and strength of character. This fall from grace will not break what I have built for the past 24 years. Realizing what I have built, in the face of this trial, is enough reason to celebrate my birthday.

After pacing restlessly around the apartment, my sister and I went to the mall and hit the book stores. The answers to my questions seemed nowhere to be found, but I felt that reading would help. I bought an inspirational book, an arts and culture book, and some magazines. I even saw "How to Change Careers" books, and I did not know whether to laugh or cry.

When we went home, I poured out my pain and anguish to my parents. Mom said she believed God has a beautiful plan for me. Dad held me as if I were a little girl again. I knew that if anyone was hurting more than me it was my parents. And because of their pain, an immeasurable sorrow swept over me. But because of their love, I knew I was not lost.

That evening, my mom's colleagues, doctors themselves, called me. They quoted inspiring Bible verses. They recalled great physicians who stumbled academically and more than just recovered: they actually became highly respected physicians.

Amidst the adversity, but whole and headstrong and with my heart and mind in the right place, I will enter my 24th year of life with newfound wisdom. It is a new life. Just when I thought I was almost there, I have begun a new journey, a journey that will not just make me a doctor, but a complete healer.

I do not know yet what the reasons are, but I'm in a phase of acceptance. I know that He will "rescue me from the fowler's snare," and I know that life can only get better from here. I also know that although this may look like a really big problem, there are greater trials ahead.

I know that the next time I walk down the halls of the hospital, there will be sympathetic looks and whispers, in front and behind my back. I will not mind them. If some people show me sympathy I will appreciate it. I may have lost a battle but I will win this war.

I am not angry at anyone, not even with myself. I am humbled by this experience, but I am not, and never will be, insecure. I still believe in what I'm capable of becoming and I will use this experience to master the art and science of medicine, to grow as a person, and to reach out to others in the future who, like me, may fall.

I will be back. And I will be the best.

Venus Oliva M. Cloma, 24, is a medical clerk (4th year medical student) at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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32nd Edition

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May 6, Sunday with Directories Philippines Corporation

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Gonzalez, Ermita, Pacman and GMA's moral sway

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ'S comment on the death of Julia Campbell was uncalled for and unkind. He said she was irresponsible and careless when she traveled alone in that area where she was presumably murdered. But she was just one of those trusting souls who credited our people with humanity and innate goodness.

In contrast, sensitivity may not be expected of cowardly bureaucrats who cannot move from their homes to their offices without a platoon of bodyguards trailing them.

One wonders what has come over the President's men. Gonzalez's insensitive comment came within hours of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's confession on how local officials have been bribed into supporting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's senatorial candidates. Someone better gag Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye before he makes another announcement similar to the one on fake and genuine tapes related to the 2004 elections.

There must be something about GMA's moral influence on her subordinates that needs revisiting.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Another victim of GMA's seeming negative influence is Manny Pacquiao, a genuine example of a unifying element of the Filipino people because of his excellence in the sport of boxing. His venture into the political arena cannot be attributed to his desire to help the people of his province, unless he has little respect for the integrity of those among them who are better trained in the art of lawmaking than he, the greatest pugilist that he may be. GMA's ecstatic endorsement of his candidacy lends credence to the speculation that he may have been encouraged by more persuasive means than can be admitted in public to use his popularity to eliminate reelectionist Rep. Darlene Antonino Custodio as a threat in a third attempt at GMA's impeachment.

—**E. P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St.**
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Magna Carta for Journalists ought to be given top priority

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY outrage over the slow investigation being conducted by the police of the assassination attempt against journalist Delfin Mallari Jr., an INQUIRER correspondent.

Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon should speed up the investigation of the case and immediately arrest the suspects.

Fifty-one journalists have been killed under the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The assassination attempt on Mallari, a hard-hitting journalist, is another attack on press freedom and the critics of the rich and powerful.

This latest attack on a journalist could be another opportunity for lawmakers to contemplate on the proposed measures to protect journalists.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Employment, I will again ask Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, chair of the Senate Committee on Public Information, to start public hearings on a Magna Carta for Journalists once Congress resumes session in June.

I filed last year the bill to establish the Magna Carta for Journalists, which is now pending in the Senate, to set up a safety net to help crusading mediamen practice their profession without harassment or fear of violent attacks from influential people.

Let us hope that Senator Revilla's panel will give priority to the measure. Maybe, Malacañang could also consider the proposed Magna Carta for Journalists a priority bill so that lawmakers would speed up the deliberations on the bill.

—**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

Political idiot

SO THIS MANNY PACQUIAO, who is bathing in the glory of his boxing victories, has allowed himself to be beguiled by those who merely want to use him for their own selfish motives, into believing he can serve his fellow residents of General Santos City as their voice in the House of Representatives.

Pacquiao may be an accomplished boxer all right, and his desire to help his townmates may be sincere, but his boxing skills and the accolades he has earned for his achievement in the boxing ring are not the qualifications one needs to effectively represent his community in a minefield which he knows nothing about.

Pacquiao could find himself one day in the deepest recesses of ignominy, from where he could only stare out into the heights where his star once shone brightly.

Pacquiao may be a pugilistic idol but, for me, he is just a political idiot.

—**RAMON MAYUGA,**
GeRMayuga@aol.com

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FESTIVAL
2007

TRADITIONS OF BAMBOO

OPENING CEREMONIES – TACLOBAN, LEYTE
Misa Cantada April 30, 7 a.m., Sto. Niño Church
Food Festival April 30 – May 2, CAP Building (Price Mansion)
Architectural Heritage Photo Exhibit April 30 – May 2, CAP Building
Abaca Installation Exhibit April 30 – May 2 UPVTC Grounds
Heritage Awards Ceremony April 30, the Governor's Hall, Capitol Building
Grand Heritage Parade May 2, 8 a.m., RTR Plaza
Grand Performing Arts Festival May 2, 6 p.m., RTR Plaza

BAMBOO FESTIVAL – DAVAO
Lecture on Bamboo – NCCA Commissioner **Prof. Felipe de Leon**
"Tribute to Patinio" exhibit featuring Jose Patinio's works
May 4 – 6, Marco Polo Hotel Davao

BULACAN HERITAGE ACTIVITIES
Hataw...Hirit Ng Balagtasayawit 2007
May 8, Pambansang Dambana ni Sta. Ana, Hagonoy, Bulacan
Santacruzan and Traditional Rigodon,
May 8 in Marilao, Bulacan at 6:00 p.m.

SILAY CITY CELEBRATION
"The Resiliency of the Bamboo Tree in Creating Works of Art"
May 18 – 20**
Culinary Competition with Bamboo Shoots
May 19, 7 p.m., Balay Negrense
Liturgical Mass with
bamboo instruments
May 20, 10 a.m., Pro-Cathedral of Silay
Bamboo Concert, May 25, 6 p.m.,
Kansilayan Theater and Gym

ILOILO CELEBRATION
Bamboo Exhibit in arts and culture,
May 22 – 27, the Fountain Area
of Robinsons Place Iloilo
Layag (painted *parao* sails) **Design Competition**
May 22, 4 p.m., along the Iloilo River

MUSIC AND DANCE
"Gintong Lahi" A concert with artists Pilita Corrales, Jaya Ramsey, Ayen Munji and Franco Laurel, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Jericho Rosales, Jan Nieto, Gerald Santos, Gian Magdangal, Analyn Bantug, Coke Bolipata, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Ballet Philippines, Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, Dagyaw, X-10 Dancers, the Philippine Ballet Theater, Maritoni Tordesillas, Banda 8, Aegis, UP Musikalinangan, Festival Chorale, UE Chorale, PNU Chorale, Kaloob and Philippine Opera Company
May 3, Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo Cultural Center of the Philippines*
Gintong Lahi Primer - Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, April 28, 6:00 p.m.,
Harbor Square (beside CCP)**
Vintage Jazz featuring Mon David & Tots Tolentino
May 9, Eastwood**
"Mga Katutubong Awitin"
Organist Armando Salarza, Las Piñas Boys Choir and Banda San Jose in a concert at the home of the first and possibly the only bamboo organ extant
May 17, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Parish, Las Piñas**

* Tickets are available at TicketWorld
** Activities for confirmation

Philippine Landmarks photo exhibit,
May 1 – 6, Robinsons Lipa
Lawiswis: Mga Kwentong Buhay Mula sa Kawayan painting and furniture exhibit
May 4 – July 6, Metropolitan Museum's Tall Galleries
Bohol Churches Ceiling Paintings photo exhibit
starting May 5, Gameng: Museo Ilocos, Norte, Laoag City**
starting May 11, Makati Museum with Banda Kawayan performance on the opening day
Philippine Colonial Lighthouses
starting May 6, Sta. Rosa Museum
starting May 8, Marilao, Bulacan with Banda Kawayan performance on the opening day
National Artists exhibit
May 7 – 12, Robinsons Galleria with Banda Kawayan performance on the opening day
Exhibit of Chinese & Filipino Traditional Medicine
May 15 – 28, Bahay Tsinoy in Intramuros, Manila with lectures at 4:00 p.m. of the opening day
Philippine Colonial Bridges Exhibit & Stamp Launch
May 16 – 23, Ayala Upper Level of Glorietta
Aton Panubli-on (Our Heritage) exhibit
starting May 21, Robinsons Bacolod
Bangsa-Moro Exhibit with Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group performance
May 23 – 31, the Podium

FASHION SHOWS
Moda Flora Filipina
May 6, Rajah Sulayman Plaza, Roxas Boulevard
J. Moreno Asean Collection Fashion Show
May 18, NBC Tent, the Fort
Vintage! Ben Farrales Presents His Collection
May 31, Waterfront Cebu Ballroom

FOOD FESTIVALS
Manamit II – featuring Ilonggo cuisine
May 7 – 18, every 12 noon, Mandarin Hotel
Food Festival Featuring Filipino Cuisine
May 14 – 28, Shangri-La Hotel Lobby Lounge
Negrense Home Cooking Food Festival,
May 17–June 7,
Intercontinental Hotel's Café Jeepney

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Honasan, Zubiri surge in survey

From page A1

Gainers

(April 21-25 survey vs Feb 28-Mar 5 survey)

Candidates		% Points gained
Zubiri, Juan Miguel "Migz"	TU	12.8
Villar, Manuel "Manny" Jr.	GO	12.0
Escudero, Francis Joseph "Chiz"	GO	11.7
Pichay, Prospero "Butch" Jr.	TU	10.3
Honasan, Gregorio "Gringo"	Ind	8.4
Cayetano, Alan Peter "Companero"	GO	7.3
Pimentel, Aquilino "Koko"	GO	7.0
Roco, Sonia "Inang Guro"	GO	4.7
Defensor, Michael "Tol"	TU	4.3
Sotto, Vicente "Tito" III	TU	3.8
Osmeña, John Henry "Sonny"	GO	3.2
Angara, Edgardo "Ed"	TU	3.1

Zubiri, a TU candidate and one of the heavy TV ad spenders, jumped to between 7th and 14th places (32.0 percent) from 10th to 18th places (27.9 percent), according to Pulse Asia.

Zubiri is tied with Joker Arroyo in the 7th and 14th places.

Of the 12 seats at stake in the 24-member Senate, GO candidates occupied the top four slots.

The survey simulated the voting act, with 1,800 representative respondents 18 years old and above asked to write down their candidates on a "ballot," which was then dropped into a makeshift "ballot box."

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

Undecided

Pulse Asia found that at the time of the latest survey, 8.8 percent of the voters "refused to name their senatorial candidates or were still undecided, or just did not express electoral support for any of those running for senator."

Former Sen. Loren Legarda continued to lead the race with nearly six of every 10 voters (59.6 percent) saying they would vote for her.

While her rating slid slightly from the 60.8 percent in the previous survey, Legarda still enjoyed the "statistical ranking of solo first place," Pulse Asia said.

The previous Pulse Asia survey was conducted from April 3 to 5.

Escudero at No. 2

Trailing behind Legarda was Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero (47.2 percent) and reelectionist Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. (47 percent), who swapped places from their previous ratings of 45.3 percent and 48.9 percent, respectively.

Reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson (43.9 percent) joined Escudero and Villar in the 2nd to 4th places.

Lacson overtook reelectionist Sen. Francis Pangilinan (38.8 percent), 5.8 percentage points down from his previous 44.6 percent rating. Pangilinan slipped to between 5th and 10th places from between 2nd and 6th places.

Pangilinan was tied with Pateros-Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano (38.2 percent), who gained 5.7 percent in the last survey. He rose from between 7th and 13th places.

In favor of Alan

Pulse Asia noted that the ballots containing only the name "Cayetano" (9.8 percent) were counted in favor of the Taguig-Pateros representative in view of a Commission on Elections resolution declaring Joselito "Peter" Cayetano a nuisance candidate.

Trailing Honasan, Aquino (35.5 percent), Recto (35.4 percent), Angara (35.2 percent), Arroyo (33.4 percent) and Zubiri (32 percent) was Aquilino Pimentel III (30.1 percent).

Gainers

Pimentel was ranked 11th to 15th. He was followed by former Sen. Vicente Sotto III (29.2 percent) in 11th to 17th places.

Gainers in the April 21-25 survey included Aquino (plus 2 percentage points and ranked between 7th and 13th in the April 3-4 survey), Arroyo (plus 1.8 percentage, previously between 7th and 15th), Zubiri (plus 4.1 percentage points, previously between 10th and 18th) and Pimentel (plus 2.5 percentage points, previously between 10th and 18th).

Magic 12

Among those who lost points but still managed to make it to the Magic 12 were Recto (minus 6.1 percentage points, previously ranked between 3rd and 6th), Angara (minus 0.3 percentage points, previously between 7th and 11th) and Sotto (minus 2.3 percentage points, previously between 7th and 15th).

Sonia Roco (27.1 percent), who was ranked between 8th and 15th places in the previous survey, did not make it to the winning circle this time. She was ranked between 13th and 18th. She lost 3.4 percentage points, from 30.5 percent in the previous survey.

Pulse Asia said it undertook the survey on its own without anyone commissioning it. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

Senatorial Voting Preferences 2007

Candidates	Feb. 28-Mar 5		April 3-5.		April 21-25	
	Percentage	Rank	Percentage	Rank	Percentage	Rank
Roco, Sonia "Inang Guro"	22.4	12-18	30.5	8-15	27.1	13-18
Defensor, Michael "Tol"	21.3	12-18	25.1	14-19	25.6	14-20
Osmeña, John Henry "Sonny"	21.9	12-18	25.8	14-18	25.1	14-20
Pichay, Prospero "Butch" Jr.	13.7	19-22	19.8	19-22	24.0	15-21
Magsaysay, Vicente "Vic"	22.4	12-18	21.4	17-20	22.8	16-21
Trillanes, Antonio "Magdalo" IV	9.9	23-24	17.1	20-22	22.0	16-21
Montano, Cesar "Buboy"	15.1	19-22	24.0	14-19	20.8	18-21
Gomez, Richard "Goma"	13.1	19-22	16.7	20-22	14.1	22-24
Coseteng, Anna Dominique "Nikki"	13.9	19-22	12.0	23-24	13.7	22-24
Singson, Luis "Chavit"	6.5	24-27	8.6	24-25	11.2	22-25
Oreta, Teresa "Tessie/Tao"	9.1	23-26	10.1	23-25	10.3	24-25
Chavez, Melchor "Mel"	4.1	27-32	5.8	26-28	6.1	26
Cayetano, Joselito "Peter"	7.1	24-27	3.9	26-31	3.9	27-30
Kiram, Jamalul "Kiram"	2.5	28-46	3.8	26-32	3.8	27-30
Wood, Victor "Vic"	4.1	27-32	3.6	27-32	3.1	27-32
Bautista, Martin "Dr. B"	2.7	28-46	3.6	27-32	2.4	27-33
Lozano, Oliver "Oli"	2.4	28-50	3.4	27-32	1.8	29-36
Sison, Adrian "Dado"			2.2	28-36	1.7	29-37
Estrella, Antonio "Tony"	1.6	30-60	1.6	32-37	1.6	30-37
Cantal, Felix "Peck"	1.7	30-59	1.4	32-37	1.1	31-37
Paredes, Zosimo Jesus II			1.4	32-37	1.1	31-37
Enciso, Ruben "Bobby Enciso"			1.4	32-37	0.9	31-37
Orpilla, Eduardo "Ed"			0.6	33-37	0.7	32-37
None/ Refused/ Undecided			5.9		8.8	

SOURCE: PULSE ASIA

Palace pooh-poohs survey; TU calls it GO propaganda

From page A1

people believe that the elections will be clean, honest and credible," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, referring to the 20 percent who disagreed with the statement and 35 percent who were undecided.

Bunye said it was a matter of looking at the glass of water as being either half full or half empty.

The Genuine Opposition (GO) commissioned Social Weather Stations to interview 2,500 randomly selected respondents from March 18 to 23.

The GO used the findings of the survey in crafting its omnibus TV ads that painted a depressing picture of worsening corruption and poverty since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001.

Slanted

Echoing TU's official position that the GO-commissioned survey was "highly anomalous," Bunye said that "if you put in slanted questions, you get slanted reactions."

The TU spokesperson, Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano, dismissed the SWS survey as opposition propaganda.

Durano said Pulse Asia had a similar survey dated April 3-5 asking respondents "about the quality of elections this year."

The result, he said, showed that 56 percent expressed the view that the coming elections would be clean and honest.

"Comparing the two surveys, it can be concluded that majority of respondents believe that the upcoming elections will be clean and honest," Durano said.

He said the opposition, "to fit its agenda, chooses to highlight the minority view on the matter."

Conditioning the public

TU media director Ben Evardone accused SWS and GO of conspiring to "condition" the public mind into believing that TU candidates would not win if the administration did not cheat.

"The GO and the SWS are conniving to condition the minds of the public for the possible defeat of the opposition in the May 14 polls. They are guilty of creating a false public perception," Evardone said.

For his part, TU senatorial candidate Luis "Chavit" Singson said SWS and GO were peddling "a cheating yarn" to prevent an "inevitable TU sweep" of the 12 senatorial seats up for grabs in the May 14 elections.

"The SWS is willing to be used and GO, which is unwilling to lose fair and square, is now poisoning the public mind about an imaginary fraud," Singson said.

Fabrication

Singson said the supposed public perception that the administration would cheat was the "mother of statistical fabrication."

He pointed out that SWS used leading questions in its surveys to get the desired antiadministration answers.

Singson said increasing voter preference for the TU candidates was proof that the public was not the source of the information being peddled by SWS and GO.

He described the GO as a "coalition under siege," claiming that voter sentiment on the ground based on TU campaign sorties showed a big victory for the TU senatorial candidates.

But Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, a GO senatorial candidate, challenged Ms Arroyo to "leave a legacy of honest and credible elections," so that there would be a "smoother" next three years and "great economic gain for the country."

He said the SWS survey "continues to show that the Palace is banking on cheating."

"There's no purpose for her to cheat now," said Cayetano, who had been at the forefront of the failed impeachment drive in the House of Representatives against Ms Arroyo.

"But if you (Ms Arroyo) will insist in declaring winners those who will lose just because they are your party mates, you will be putting the county's economy in harm's way, and you will be courting another political crisis," he said.

Cheating at precinct level

Cayetano reminded Ms Arroyo that the midterm polls would determine whether she would be an effective President for the last three years of her term.

GO, he said, had received reports the cheating would be concentrated at the precinct level—rigging the counting, reading the wrong names, counting votes although they were not on the elections returns (ERs) and stuffing ballot boxes with ready-made ballots.

"In my case, Joselito Cayetano continues to be a candidate and the Comelec has yet to come out with its resolution (with finality)," he said. "This has been their cheating tool from the start." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

In the Matter of Amending Sections 73, 76, and 89 of COMELEC Resolution No. 7740 (General Instructions for the Special Ballot Reception & Custody Group, Special Board of Elections Inspectors & Special Board of Canvassers in the Conduct of Voting, Counting & Canvassing under R.A. 9189 for Purposes of the May 14, 2007 Senatorial & Party-list Elections)

ABALOS, BENJAMIN S.	CHAIRMAN
BORRA, RESURRECCION Z.	COMMISSIONER
TUASON, JR., FLORENTINO A.	COMMISSIONER
BRAWNER, ROMEO A.	COMMISSIONER
SARMIENTO, RENE V.	COMMISSIONER
FERRER, NICODEMO T.	COMMISSIONER

Promulgated: April 27, 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 7874

WHEREAS, on 30 October 2006, the Commission promulgated COMELEC Resolution No. 7740 (General Instructions for the SBRCG, SBEI and SBOC for Purposes of Overseas Absentee Voting in the May 14, 2007 Senatorial and Party-list Elections).

WHEREAS, R.A. 9369 (An Act Amending R.A. 8436) or the Poll Automation Law, was passed on 23 January 2007.

WHEREAS, even if the automation in local elections will not be adopted this year this year for lack of material time, the Commission is still mandated to promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations of RA 9369.

WHEREAS, COMELEC Resolution No. 7859 (General Instructions for the Municipal/City/Provincial and District Board of Canvassers in Connection with the May 14, 2007 National and Local Elections) was promulgated by the Commission on 17 April 2007 which took into consideration provisions of R.A. 9369 that will be made applicable to canvassing in the local elections.

WHEREAS, in view of R.A. 9369 and COMELEC Resolution No. 7859, there is a need to amend the pertinent provisions of COMELEC Resolution No. 7440 which pertains to the earlier General Instructions promulgated in connection with overseas absentee voting.

WHEREAS, there is also a need to include a provision in COMELEC Resolution No. 7740 creating committees of Tabulators and Reception and Custody if the number of election returns (ERs) to be canvassed is twenty-two (22) or more and to provide the additional canvassing procedures thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission on Elections RESOLVED, to amend Sections 73, 76, and 89 of COMELEC Resolution No. 7740 as follows:

Section. 1 – Section 73 should read as follows:

"**Sec. 73.** Canvassing Procedures. - xxx

"19. xxx
"20. xxx
"21. xxx
"22. xxx

"FOR POSTS CANVASSING TWENTY-TWO OR MORE ELECTION RETURNS

A. ***Tabulators*** – The SBOC shall have two (2) tabulators to assist in the canvassing. The tabulators shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Board. The names of each tabulator and the serial number of the Statement of Votes assigned to them for use in the tabulation of votes shall be properly recorded in the Minutes of Canvass of the Board.

B. Reception and Custody Committee – The SBOC may constitute a reception and custody committee if the number of election returns (ER) to be canvassed is twenty-two (22) or more.

The names of the members of the committee and the election returns shall be properly recorded in the minutes of canvass of the Board.

No changes/substitutions in the membership of the these groups shall be made until all the columns of the Statement of Votes by Precinct being filled-up by the concerned committee have been completed. Any change/substitution in the membership of the canvassing committees shall be with the prior authority of the Board, and shall be recorded in the Minutes of Canvass of both the Board and the canvassing committee concerned.

C. Duties and responsibilities of the Reception and Custody Committee – The Reception and Custody Committee shall:

1. Receive the envelope containing the election returns;
2. Log the date and time of receipt, the condition and serial numbers of each envelope and its corresponding paper seal and the SBEI number of the election returns;
3. Prepare, in two (2) copies, a list of SBEI numbers the election returns of which have been received;
4. Place the envelopes containing election returns inside a ballot box, close and secure the same in secured place;
5. Forward to the SBOC, the ballot box and one copy of the list of SBEIs; and;
6. Submit a progress report to the SBOC, indicating the following:
   - 6.1. Total number of election returns received;
   - 6.2. Total number of election returns forwarded to the SBOC; and
   - 6.3. Total number of election returns not yet received and the corresponding SBEI number.

D. Canvassing Procedures. – The Board shall comply with the following procedures:

1) The Secretary of the SBOC shall, upon receipt of the ballot boxes from the Reception and Custody Group, record in the Minutes of Canvass the conditions and serial numbers thereof, and forward the ballot boxes to the Chairman;

2) The Board shall open, one at a time, the ballot boxes, retrieve the envelopes containing the election returns and the Secretary shall make an inventory by verifying whether the list of SBEIs given by the Reception and Custody Group tallies with the SBEIs in the envelopes containing the election returns.

3) Thereafter, the Secretary shall record in the Minutes of Canvass, the total number of envelopes contained in the ballot box, the SBEIs to which they pertain, the condition and serial number of each envelope and of the paper seal attached to the envelope.

4) The Board shall:

a) Announce the condition and serial number of an envelope and its paper seal;
b) Break its paper seal;
c) Retrieve the election returns inside;
d) Announce the condition and serial number of the paper seal attached to the election returns and the Secretary shall record in the Minutes of Canvass the said condition and serial number;
e) Break the seal and unfold the election returns;
f) Announce the SBEI number to which the election returns pertains and the Secretary shall record the condition and serial number of the election returns; and
g) Through the Chairman, assign a Statement of Votes by Precinct to be used in the canvass and, after the Secretary has recorded its serial number, divide the copies between the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary.

5) The Board shall then proceed to examine the authenticity and due execution of the election returns and the completeness of the statistical data therein required;

6) The Chairman shall first read the votes of each candidate as they appear in the election returns. The two other members shall simultaneously record the votes of said candidates in their respective copies of the Statement of Votes by Precinct as the Chairman reads them.

For purposes of preparing the Statement of Votes the following terms shall mean:

- ***Page partial total***
  Sum of votes obtained by each candidate appearing in a set of Statement of Votes when some columns are not filled at the time of adjournment/ suspension of canvass. This shall be recorded on the box immediately after the last entry of votes at the time of adjournment/suspension of canvass.
- ***Sub-total***
  Sum of all votes obtained by each candidate when all the columns of a set of Statement of Votes are filled. The sub-total shall be recorded in the last column indicated in the Statement of Votes;
  Sum of all votes obtained by each candidate when all election returns have been canvassed even if not all the columns of the Statement of Votes are filled.
- ***Provisional total***
  Accumulated total of all votes obtained by each candidate appearing in all accomplished sets of Statement of Votes at the time of adjournment/suspension of canvass, for the purpose of releasing results to the media and other interested parties. This shall be recorded in a document other than the Statement of Votes;
- ***Summary of Statement of Votes***
  Listing of all sub-totals reflected in each set of Statements of Votes.
- ***Grand total***
  Sum of all sub-totals of votes obtained by each candidate as listed/recorded in the Summary of Statement of Votes.

7) Immediately after an election returns has been canvassed, the Chairman shall write/mark on the upper right hand corner of the said election returns/certificates of canvass and its corresponding envelope, the word "CANVASSED", affix his signature under it, the date and time when it was canvassed, and put it inside said envelope.

8) After all the columns of a set of Statement of Votes by Precinct are filled or after all the election returns have been canvassed, the two members shall submit to the Chairman their copies of the Statement of Votes by Precinct. The Chairman shall then divide the copies of the accomplished Statement of Votes by Precinct between the Tabulators who shall then compute, using an adding machine with tape, in their respective copies, the sub-total of the: (1) number of registered voters; (2) number of voters who actually voted; and (3) the votes obtained by each candidate. Thereafter, the Tabulators shall initially record the sub-totals in a separate sheet of paper and compare whether the sub-totals are the same.

If there is no discrepancy, the Tabulators shall record the sub-totals in the Statement of Votes and accomplish the certification portion intended for them in the Statement of Votes and submit the same to the Board.

If there is a discrepancy, the Tabulators shall identify the particular precinct in the corresponding Statement of Votes where such discrepancy occurred. After identifying the source of the discrepancy, the Tabulators shall refer the same to the Chairman, who in turn shall:

a) Announce that a correction/s will be made in a particular Statement of Votes by Precinct;
b) Retrieve and re-open the election returns concerned;
c) Verify the entry;
d) Announce the correct entry; and
e) Direct the member who made the erroneous entry to make the proper correction by encircling the erroneous entry and writing immediately above the circle the correct entry in his copy of the Statement of Votes by Precinct.

The members of the Board shall authenticate the correction by affixing their initials immediately after the correction. The Chairman shall then return the corrected Statement of Votes by Precinct to the Tabulators who shall recompute the sub-totals where the discrepancy occurred and accomplish the certification portion intended for them in the Statement of Votes by Precinct and submit the same to the Board.

9) For the purpose of preparing the Summary of Statement of Votes, the Chairman shall divide a set of Summary of Statement of Votes between the Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Vice-Chairman and Secretary shall record in their respective copies, the:

a) Serial number of the Statement of Votes by Precinct;
b) Sub-totals of the number of registered voters, the voters who actually voted and votes obtained by each candidate as reflected in the Statement of Votes by Precinct;

When all the sub-totals of the Statement of Votes by Precinct are recorded, the Board shall forward the same to the Tabulators who shall add the entries and verify whether the entries therein are the same. The Tabulators shall initially record the grand total in a separate sheet of paper and compare whether the grand totals are the same.

If there is no discrepancy, the Tabulators shall record the grand totals in the Summary of the Statement of Votes and accomplish the certification portion intended for them in the Summary of the Statement of Votes and submit the same to the Board.

If there is a discrepancy, the Tabulators shall identify the particular Statement of Votes where such discrepancy occurred. After identifying the source of the discrepancy, the Tabulators shall refer the same to the Chairman, who in turn shall:

a. Announce that correction/s will be made in a particular Summary of Statement of Votes;
b. Verify the entry;
c. Announce the correct entry; and
d. Direct the member who made the erroneous entry to make the proper correction by encircling the erroneous entry and writing immediately above the circle the correct entry in his copy of the Summary of Statement of Votes.

The Board shall authenticate the correction by affixing their initials immediately after the correction. The Chairman shall then return the corrected Summary of Statement of Votes to the Tabulators who shall recompute the sub-totals where the discrepancy occurred and accomplish the certification portion intended for them and submit the same to the Board.

10) The Tabulators shall, using an adding machine with tape, add the sub-totals of votes obtained by each candidate as reflected in the Summary of Statement of Votes to get the grand total of votes obtained by each candidate and indicate the grand total of votes in the last column of the Summary of Statement of Votes.

11) Accomplish the certification portion in the Summary of Statement of Votes intended for the Tabulators, if any.

12) Forward the Statement of Votes by Precinct and Summary of Statement of Votes, if any, with their adding machine tapes attached, as well as the corresponding election returns and their envelopes to the Board.

E. Adjournment of the Board/Canvassing Committee. – Each time the Board adjourns, it shall make a total of all votes canvassed for each candidate, applying the following procedure:

1) When all the columns of the SOV are not filled up, the Tabulators shall indicate the page partial total of votes obtained by each candidate and close the same by affixing their initials. The SOV shall be placed in the ballot box provided in No. 4 hereunder.

2) When all the columns of the SOV are filled, the Tabulators shall indicate the sub-total.

3) A provisional total shall be made available to mass media and other interested parties.

4) The remaining unopened envelopes and SOV containing the page partial total shall be placed in the ballot box provided for the purpose which shall be sealed and kept by the members of the Board in a secured room.

5) The serial number and the quantity of the remaining unopened envelopes shall be recorded in the minutes.

6) Furnish the COAV, by the fastest means of communication, a provisional total of the votes canvassed so far for each candidate for each office, and make available the data contained therein to the mass media and other interested parties.

Upon resumption of the canvass:

7) The Secretary of the Board shall verify and enter in the minutes the condition of the ballot box.

8) The Board shall then, in the presence of the watchers, open the ballot box, retrieve the partially-filled SOV and the unopened envelopes containing the election returns not yet canvassed, and proceed with the canvass until all election returns are canvassed.

9) After completion of the canvass:

a) Prepare in six (6) copies, a Certificate of Canvass of Votes for Senators and Party-List (OAVF No. 21);
b) The Chairman shall announce the results of the election, and the posting of the second copy of the Certificate of Canvass and its supporting Statement of Votes on a wall with sufficient lighting within the premises of the canvassing center.
c) The Chairman shall then proceed to post the same in the presence of the other members of the Board, the watchers and those present in the canvassing center.

Sec. 2. – Section 76 should read as follows:

"**SEC. 76.** ***Distribution of Certificates of Canvass.*** – The SBOC shall distribute the Certificate of Canvass of Votes for Senators and Party-List (OAVF No.21) as follows:

1) The first copy to the Commission sitting as the National Board of Canvassers for use in the canvass of results for Senators and Party-List Representatives;

2) The second copy to be posted on a wall within the premises of the canvassing center;

3) The third copy to the Chairman of the Board;

4) The fourth copy to the citizen's arm designated by the Commission to conduct a media-based unofficial count; and

5) The fifth and sixth copies, to the representatives of two (2) of the six (6) major political parties in accordance with the voluntary agreement of the parties. If no such agreement is reached, the Commission shall decide which parties shall receive the copies of the Certificate of Canvass on the basis of the criteria provided in Sec 26 of RA 7166. The parties receiving the certificates shall have the obligation to furnish the other parties with authentic copies thereof with the least possible delay.

The copy of the certificate of canvass posted on the wall shall be open for public viewing at any time of the day for forty-eight (48) hours following its posting. Any person may view or capture an image of the certificate of

Continued on next page

From page A14

canvass. After the prescribed period for posting, the SBRCG shall collect the posted certificate of canvass and keep the same in his custody to be produced for image or data capturing as may be requested by any voter or for any lawful purpose as may be ordered by competent authority.

Except for those copies that are required to be delivered, copies of certificate of canvass may be claimed at the canvassing center. Any unclaimed copy shall remain with the SBRCG, which shall produce them when requested by the recipient or when ordered by a competent authority.

Any violation of this Section, or its pertinent portion, shall constitute an election offense and shall be penalized in accordance with BP Blg. 881.

X x x
X x x

Sec. 3. – Section 89 should read as follows:

"ARTICLE XIV - PROHIBITED ACTS

"Sec. 89. A. ***Prohibited acts.*** – In addition to the prohibited acts provided by law, it shall be unlawful:

"1. xxx
"2. xxx
xxx
xxx
"9. xxx

B. Election Offenses; Electoral Sabotage – In addition to the prohibited acts and above-mentioned election offenses and those enumerated in Sections 261 and 262 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, as amended, the following shall be guilty of an election offense or a special election offense to be known as electoral sabotage:

1) Any person who removes the certificate of canvass posted on the wall, whether within or after the prescribed forty-eight (48) hours of posting, or defaces the same in any manner;

2) Any person who simulates an actual certificate of canvass or statement of votes, or a print or digital copy thereof;

3) Any person who simulates the certification of a certificate of canvass or statement of votes;

4) The Chairman or any member of the Board of canvassers who, during the prescribed period of posting, removes the certificate of canvass or its supporting statement of votes from the wall on which they have been posted other than for the purpose of immediately transferring them to a more suitable place;

5) The Chairman or any member of the Board of canvassers who signs or authenticates a print of the certificate of canvass or its supporting statement of votes outside of the canvassing area;

6) The Chairman or any member of the Board of canvassers who signs or authenticates a print which bears an image different from the certificate of canvass or statement of votes produced after canvassing and posted on the wall; and

7) Any person or member of the Board of election inspectors or Board of canvassers who tampers, increases or decreases the votes received by a candidate in any election or any member of the Board who refuses, after proper verification and hearing, to credit the correct votes or deduct such tampered votes: Provided, however, That when the tampering, increase or decrease of votes or the refusal to credit the correct votes and/or to deduct tampered votes are perpetrated on a large scale or in substantial numbers, the same shall be considered, not as an ordinary election offense under Section 261 and/or 262 of the Omnibus Election Code, but a special election offense to be known as electoral sabotage and the penalty to be imposed shall be life imprisonment.

The act or offense committed shall fall under the category of electoral sabotage in any of the following instances;

a) When the tampering, increase and/or decrease of votes perpetrated or the refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes, is/are committed in the election of a national elective office which is voted upon nationwide and the tampering, increase and/or decrease votes, refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes, shall adversely affect the results of the election to the said national office to the extent that losing candidate/s is/are made to appear the winner/s;

b) Regardless of the elective office involved, when the tampering, increase and/or decrease of votes committed or the refusal to credit the correct votes or to deduct tampered votes perpetrated, is accomplished in a single election document or in the transposition of the figures/results from one election document to another and involved in the said tampering increase and/or decrease or refusal to credit correct votes or deduct tampered votes exceed five thousand (5,000) votes, and that the same adversely affects the true results of the election; and

c) Any and all other forms or tampering increase/s and/or decrease/s of votes perpetuated or in cases of refusal to credit the correct votes or deduct the tampered votes, where the total votes involved exceed ten thousand (10,000) votes.

Any and all other persons or individuals determined to be in conspiracy or in connivance with the members of the SBEIs or SBOCs involved, shall be meted the same penalty of life imprisonment.

Sec. 4. ***Effectivity.*** – This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Sec. 5. ***Dissemination.*** – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and to furnish the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment and other concerned government agencies with copies of the Resolution.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI—May 1, 2007)

Bong Pineda takes active role in wife's campaign

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SUSPECTED 'JUETENG" lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda has taken a "more active hand" in the gubernatorial bid of his wife Lilia as the May 14 elections draw near, the campaign manager of reelectionist Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid said on Monday.

But Pineda, reached by phone, said in Filipino: "I need not help (my wife) so much because she can manage it on her own."

He denied being the operator now in Lilia's campaign. "It is she who's working, not me," Pineda said.

In a separate phone interview, Lilia Pineda said: "He's not working in my campaign. It is I who people talk to, who they believe in. Nobody can interfere with what I do."

Fr. Eddie Panlilio, one of the six candidates for governor and said to be the one who has been upsetting the vote-getting efforts of both Lapid and Pineda, on Monday appealed to voters to be "vigilant" amid the alleged irregularities in the campaign activities of other aspirants and the growing number of cases of harassment of his campaigners.

Lapid's chief campaigner, Fidel Arcenas, said the growing involvement of Pineda became apparent when one of his ward leaders, the village chief of Barangay Dau in Mabalacat town, met several public schoolteachers in his farm on Friday night.

Based on reports of municipal coordinators, Arcenas said Pineda also planned to gather the province's schoolteachers in an assembly at the Fontana Leisure Resort inside the Clark Freeport this week.

"We are bothered by this latest development because public schoolteachers are supposed to act as chair of the board of election inspectors. Why meet them?" Arcenas said by phone.

The Mabalacat incident, he said, indicated a shift in the kinds of groups that Pineda has been seeking out in the last leg of the campaign.

In the last two weeks, Arcenas said Pineda had been meeting with barangay officials and leaders of various sectors at a restaurant in San Fernando.

Pineda, 57, regarded by some local politicians as a "king maker" in Pampanga politics in the past two decades, made his first public appearance on Dec. 31, 2006 when he spoke at a rally in Lubao, their hometown, to endorse his wife's bid to some 5,000 residents of Porac, the hometown of the Lapids.

In that rally, he announced he had severed ties with the Lapids over their alleged arrogance and disagreements with several political decisions.

Arcenas on Monday also confirmed reports of voters being "herded" to caucuses at a cockpit arena in Barangay Balite here. Pineda reportedly cornered a two-year contract to rent the place and operate the games there.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER said those who attended the caucuses on Tuesday and Wednesday received between P200 and P500.

"This pattern will be on a grand scale close to the election day," Arcenas said, referring to the mobilization of people and possible use of money. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Pangasinan takes time out from politics

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE political heat notwithstanding, Pangasinenses are out to celebrate festivities that pay tribute to the sea, the source of livelihood and food and a place for recreation for most of them.

The Pista'y Dayat (Sea Festival) in this capital town opened on Friday with the awarding of winners in the Linis Dayat, an annual contest started in 1999 aimed at protecting and conserving the province's marine resources.

Pangasinan has 12 towns and a city along the Lingayen Gulf and these are clustered into three: Coastal resource management pioneering, expansion and developing.

The first category was won by Alaminos City, the second by Burgos town and the third by Binmaley town. Each received P200,000 worth of coastal resources management projects from the University of the Philippines-Sagip Lingayen Gulf Project, Mirant Philippines, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and San Roque Power Corp.

Outstanding fishermen organizations were cited while a trade fair and exhibit at the capitol grounds was opened.

Speaking on behalf of Gov. Victor Agbayani, provincial administrator Virgilio Solis Jr. recalled the "humble beginnings" of the Pista'y Dayat that started as a thanksgiving for fishermen in two villages of Lingayen every May 1.

RESIDENTS of Pangasinan won't let the election campaign get in the way of their feasts, such as the 5th Pandan Festival held recently in Mapandan town.

RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

"It is now a full-fledged attraction drawing thousands of tourists every year. We are thankful for the national government, particularly the Philippine Tourism Authority, for giving us full assistance," Solis said.

The provincial government has prepared activities for tourists and residents until tomorrow. Among these are a boxing competition, sand sculpting contest, "*palaro sa* beach," battle of the bands, kite flying fest, street dancing competition and the Limgas na Dayat beauty contest.

Echoing the festival theme, "Say Dayat Bilay (The Sea Is Life)," Solis said it was the obligation of every Pangasinense to take care of the Lingayen Gulf because it has been giving livelihood to the residents.

In Dagupan City, the Bangus Festival was opened through a caravan that went around towns in the fourth district.

Aside from the usual activities like the "101 Ways to Cook Bangus," a new activity was introduced this year—the Pigar-Pigar Fiesta.

The *pigar-pigar*, a popular delicacy in the city, refers to thinly sliced beef or carabeef deep-fried and garnished with onion rings.

Taiwanese trader, driver shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Suspected communist rebels shot dead a Taiwanese businessman and his driver in front of his stall in a predawn attack in San Vicente, Palawan on Monday.

Victim Chang Hsien Jung, a Taiwanese national engaged in squid trading, died of bullet wounds in the head and chest while being rushed to a hospital.

His driver, Vicente Lopez, 18, died on the spot from a gunshot in the head.

Senior Supt. Dennis Peña, Palawan police director, said the victims were sorting out the containers of squid delivered by their suppliers at around 1:30 a.m. at their stall in Barangay Alimanguan when the still undetermined number of killers approached them.

Peña said the attack happened just as the province was hit by a power outage.

He said the suspects immediately boarded a motorcycle after the attack.

Police found bullet slugs from still unknown firearms in the crime scene, Peña said.

He said members of the New People's Army (NPA) operating in the area could be behind the attack, he added.

Peña said the rebels could have killed the Taiwanese national after he refused to give "revolutionary tax" to the communist group.

"There are no syndicates or armed groups in the area, except the NPA," he said in a mobile phone interview. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Comelec to send new teams to keep Ecija peace

CABANATUAN CITY—THE COMMISSION on Elections will assign new teams of policemen and Army soldiers to secure candidates in the province, which has been placed under its control following the clash between supporters of two feuding candidates.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the Comelec did this in Abra where election and police officials had been successful in maintaining peace and order there.

"Something good is now happening in Abra. There are no more troubles there," Abalos said shortly after announcing the placing of Nueva Ecija under Comelec control.

Abalos met on Saturday with election officers and chiefs of police in the province to discuss measures to prevent a repeat of Thursday's clash in Jaen town.

The clash, which resulted in the death of a candidate for municipal councilor and a security officer, was believed caused by the disregard of rules of engagements by law enforcers assigned as security escorts of candidates.

ELEKSYON 2007

Residents said they believed that there were lapses in the assignment by the Comelec and police of security escorts who were not known to one another.

Abalos has ordered the recall of all security men assigned to candidates in the province. He said they would soon be replaced by tandems of policemen and Army soldiers who would be properly briefed on their duties and responsibilities as security details.

He said the deployment of these groups of security details would be done only by the Provisional Task Force Nueva Ecija.

The task force, headed by Senior Supt. Alfredo Caballes, police deputy regional director for operations in Central Luzon, would direct the participation of the different law enforcement units in Nueva Ecija.

Earlier, at least 350 soldiers belonging to the Army's 702nd Brigade were sent to Nueva Ecija to help in maintaining peace and order and in helping stop New People's Army rebels who were reportedly sighted in mountain boundaries in the northern and eastern areas.

Abalos said more soldiers are expected to be assigned to Nueva Ecija but this does not mean the Comelec is losing confidence on the capability of the police to carry out their task of maintaining peace and order.

"We are just forced to do this in view of what happened in Jaen," he said.

He said times had changed. "When you hit somebody now, he will not throw bread in return ... but instead grenade. We don't like that to happen again here," he said.

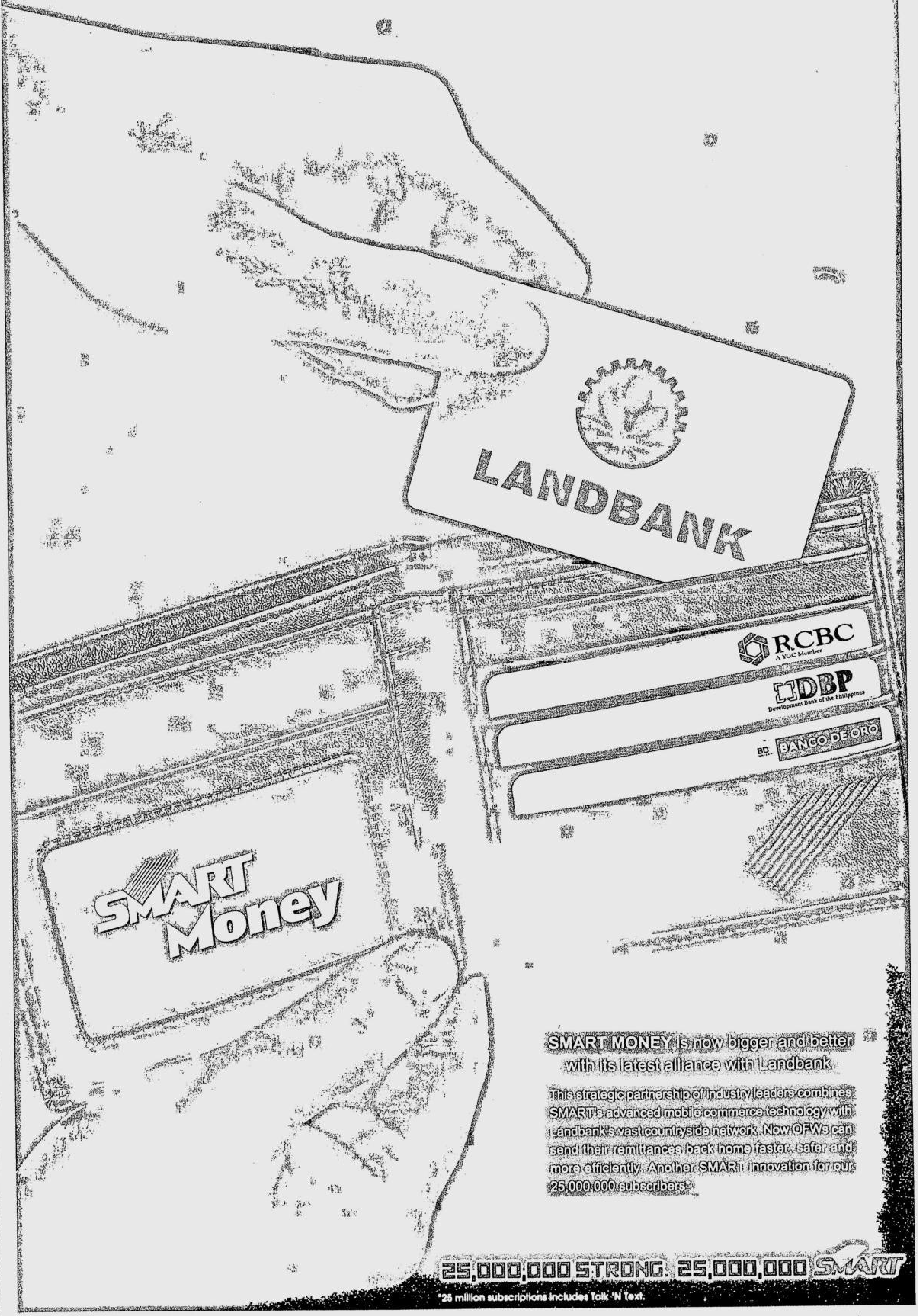
He also said the candidates and their security escorts have "developed closeness that caution is sometimes thrown to the wind."

In view of the protest by Gov. Tomas Joson III against reports that certain aspects of the work of the governor would be undertaken by a Comelec team, local Comelec officials said the full administration of the province would be left to the governor.

Only certain aspects would be under the full control of the Comelec, they said.

Joson earlier said that he would not allow his work as governor to be disturbed by anybody. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

WE'RE MAKING ROOM FOR OUR NEWEST BANKING PARTNER.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Bounty for cell snatching suspect

Pa of slain victim, Parañaque officials put up reward

BORINES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Julie M. Aurelio

A P250,000 REWARD HAS BEEN put up for the capture of the man who shot and killed a 16-year-old boy over a cell phone in an Internet cafe in Parañaque City on April 18.

"I am offering a reward of P100,000 to anyone who can give a lead on where my son's killer is hiding," Roland Lim, the father of the victim—Roland Anthony—told reporters yesterday.

Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. contributed a similar amount while Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, Southern Police District director, announced that he and his men would be adding P50,000 to the bounty.

"I don't know the victim or his father personally. But this is a heinous crime," Bernabe said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

The police has identified the suspect as Anthony Borines alias Bogoy, 21 and a native of Masbate.

Based on witnesses' accounts, Roland Anthony was playing computer games at the Galaxy Internet Cafe in Better Living Subdivision on April 18 when Borines entered the establishment and took his cell phone, a Nokia 3250.

The victim reportedly ran after the suspect and caught up with him outside the establishment. After a brief scuffle, Roland Anthony returned to the cafe and resumed playing video games.

Borines followed him to the cafe, shot the victim once in the head with a cal. .38 revolver. and then left the establishment.

City police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles said Borines, a resident of Kalayaan Access Road in Pasay City, was involved in several holdup, robbery and snatching incidents.

Positive

"He was positively identified by two witnesses who saw him shoot the victim," Estilles said in a press conference yesterday..

Estilles also distributed to reporters a photograph and artist's sketch of the suspect.

Roland Anthony was comatose for more than a week at the Makati Medical Center where he was taken after the incident.

He passed away on Friday.

His body lies at the Sanctuario de San Antonio in Makati City.

Yesterday afternoon, policemen went to Borines' house in Pasay City to arrest him but failed to find him there.

"We received information earlier in the morning that Borines was in the neighborhood, but it seems he learned about our plan to arrest him," Estille s said.

He added that he had formed a team of six cops, led by SPO1 Charlie Bayoca, to focus on the arrest of the suspect who is usually seen riding around the subdivision on board a motorcycle.

Both Lim and Estilles expressed hopes that the suspect would be apprehended this week.

"He has already sent surrender feelers through some of his relatives. It won't be long before we get him," Estilles said.

Rosales said Borines would be charged for robbery with homicide.

Floating vintage bombs cause stir in Navotas

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIFTEEN WORLD WAR II VINtage bombs were found floating in the coastal waters off Navotas on Sunday, the police said yesterday.

Insp. Glenn Sampaga, Navotas police duty officer, said the bombs were discovered by employees of RBL Fishing Corp. near the seawall of the municipality's fish port complex.

He added that bomb experts who were called to the area described the bombs as 5.7mm projectiles without fuses.

Tension

There was tension in the area after news of the fishermen's find was reported because this was the first time a large number of vintage bombs were found, the policeman said.

"The sight of the bombs near the seawall scared some of the residents in the area, but we assured them that these would no longer explode," Sampaga added.

He said the WWII bombs were immediately brought to the explosives ordinance office for safekeeping.

The policeman commended the fishing company's employees for immediately reporting their discovery to authorities.

Appeal

At the same time, Sampaga appealed to fishermen and treasure hunters in the area to report their finds instead of dismantling these. "The bombs should be surrendered to experts to avoid accidents," he warned.

According to him, fishermen and treasure hunters usually attempt to salvage parts of the bombs and sell these to junk shops.

Two years ago, a man was killed while his son's face was mangled when a WWII bomb they had dug up in the hills of Antipolo City exploded.

The bomb went off as they were trying to dismantle the bomb.

Stricter motorcyle registration rules urged

By Kristine L. Alave

ALARMED AT THE RAMPANT use of motorcycles in robberies and criminal activities, the top police official in the eastern part of Metro Manila has urged local government officials to create more stringent rules on the registration of motorcycles.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, Eastern Police District director, said he has talked to local officials about the possibility of introducing an ordinance that would mandate stricter laws on motorcycle registration to enable law enforcers to quickly identify their owners and weed out the criminals.

"We are trying to work out a mechanism under which anyone who buys a motorcycle would also have to register the helmets they would use. The helmets would have the owner's plate number," Ticman said.

"We still need to finetune this but we are already broaching the idea to local government units," he added.

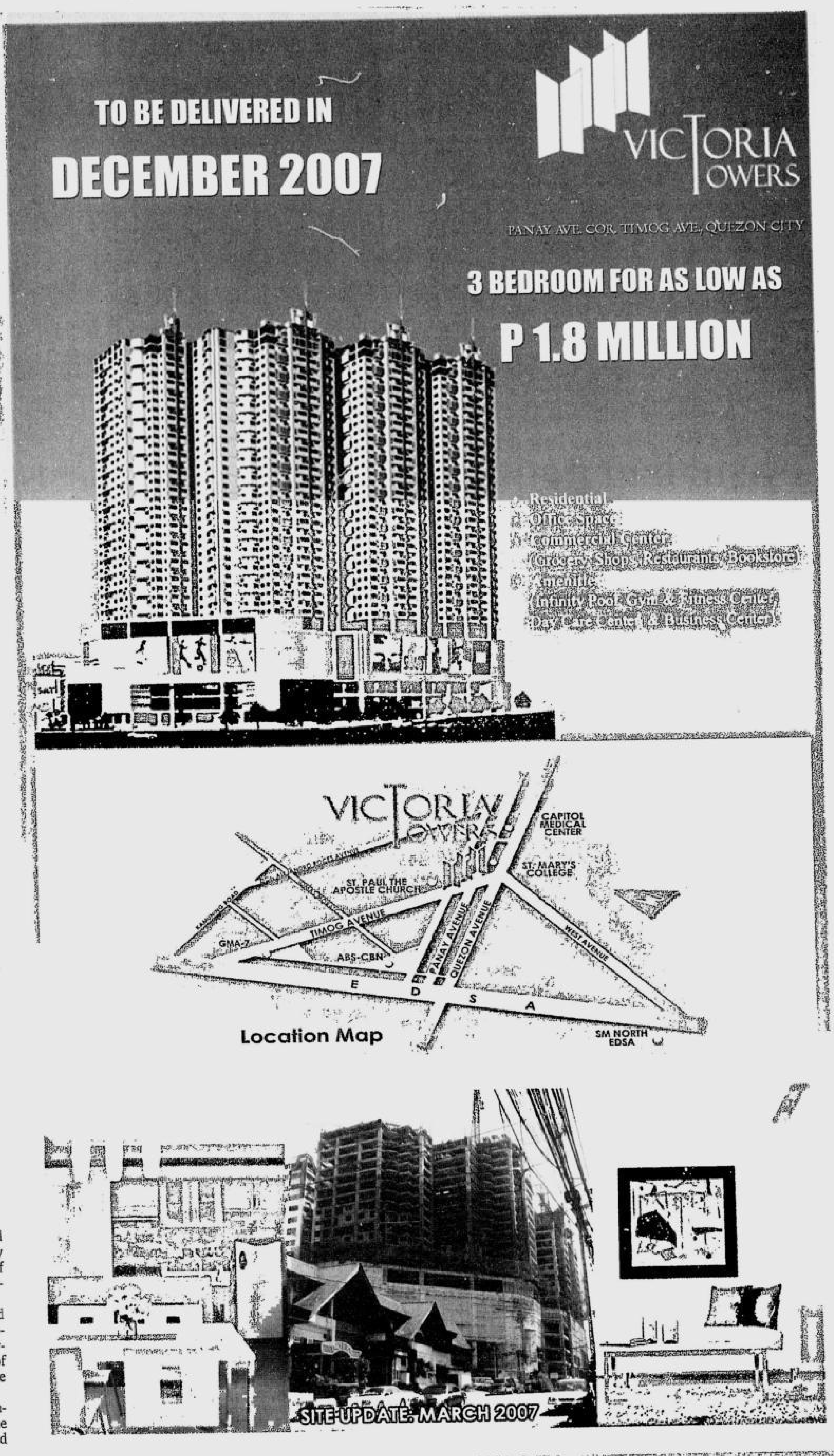
Under the proposal, police and traffic enforcers can immediately flag down motorbike riders if their license plates are not printed on their helmets.

Ticman said he also asked Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to study the possibility of having a uniform, Metro-wide rule on motorcycle registration.

He added that the EPD is conducting a survey to determine the number of motorcycles registered in the area.

There have been many cases in the past of motorcycle-riding men who held up people who had just withdrawn huge amounts of money from banks.

Last week, a couple in Mandaluyong City who had just come from a bank was tailed by three armed men on a motorbike. The suspects later blocked their vehicle and took the P2.7 million in cash which they had just withdrawn.



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It's business as usual, say NLEX, SLEX toll firms

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE FOUR TOLLWAY FIRMS IN charge of vehicle access to the North and South Luzon expressways said they would not be affected by the expiration of the franchise of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), the government agency deputized to operate the country's expressways.

The PNCC franchise to operate as an agent of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) expired yesterday. But tollway operators in the franchise areas are confident the TRB will not take away their authority to manage, secure and maintain the expressways.

The TRB has yet to issue its official position on the matter. Sources said, however, that under the TRB charter, it could allow the toll operations to go on as usual.

The Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC), for one, has a toll operating certificate which allows it to operate in the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) until the end of its concession period in 2030, according to its president, Jose de Jesus.

MNTC is the joint venture company created by the PNCC to manage the NLEX with the Lopez family's First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.

This is good news for NLEX users because MNTC has started preparatory works for the second phase of the expressway's P2.8-billion expansion program to cope with growing vehicular traffic. The first phase of the expressway's expansion was completed in February 2005.

MNTC chief and finance executive Rodrigo E. Franco earlier said that the third phase of the project was still in the planning stage. The third phase will connect the NLEX to Subic in Zambales.

On the other hand, some uncertainties have been raised about toll operations at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), a network of three arteries connecting Metro Manila to the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area.

The first part, from Quirino Avenue in Manila to Alabang, Muntinlupa, is called the Skyway system. The Skyway has been run by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. and PNCC, in a joint venture with Indonesia's P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada, since 1999.

Citra chief finance officer Chito Borromeo, however, said that PNCC's dilemma would not disrupt operations.

The third SLEX artery operated by Star Infrastructure Development Corp. will also not be affected by the move. Star runs from Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Batangas City. The second part of SLEX, from Muntinlupa to Calamba, has yet to be turned over to the South Luzon Tollway Corp.

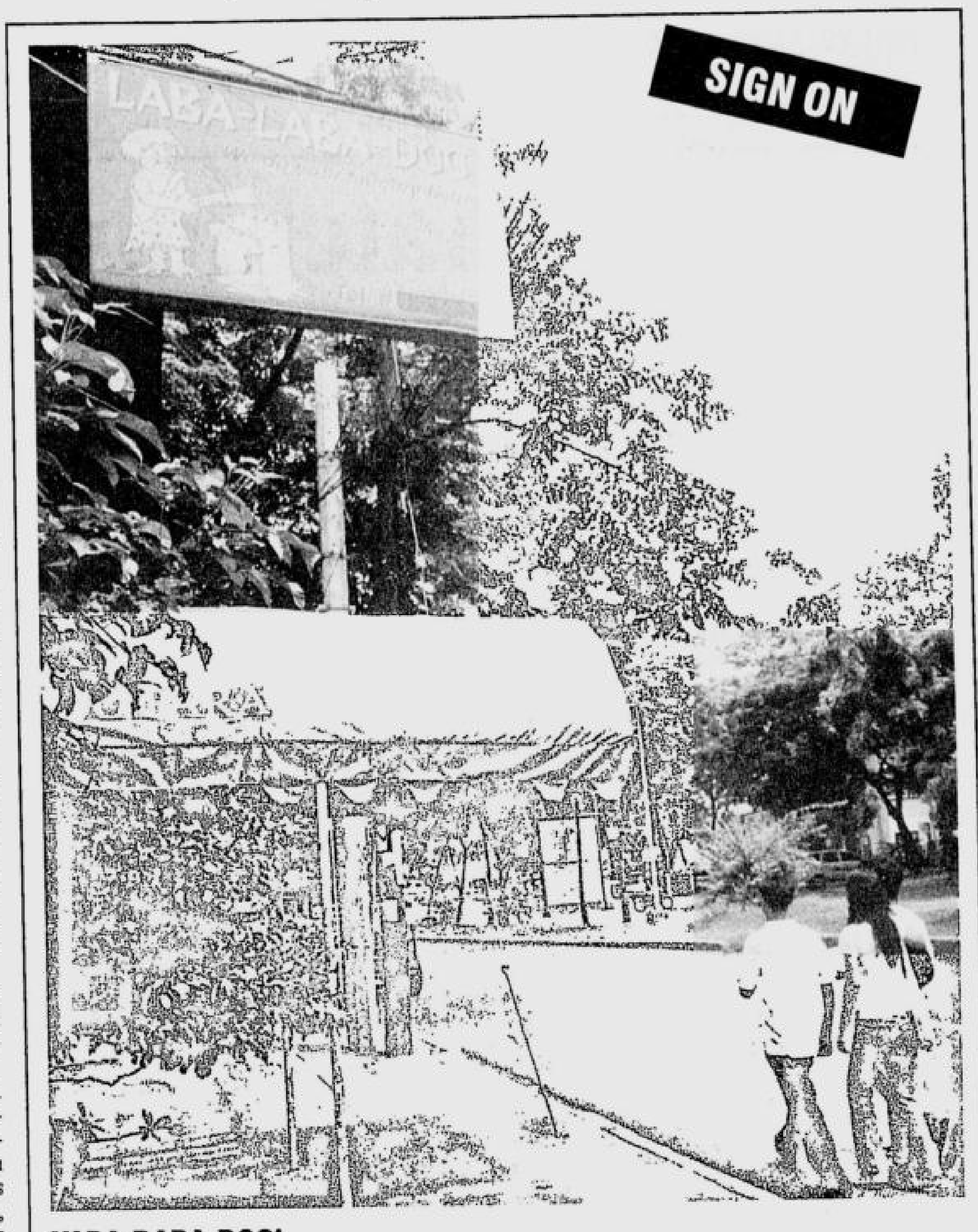
DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration was created in 1982 by Executive Order No. 797 to promote and monitor the employment of Filipinos abroad. Its functions were expanded in 1987 to include the safeguarding of migrant workers' rights, their protection from illegal recruiters and the granting of basic assistance to overseas Filipino workers and their families.

The POEA serves an average of 3,000 clients daily in its main office on Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

SIGN ON



YABA-DABA-DOO!
A laundry shop on Roces Avenue, Quezon City.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

METROBRIEFS

Attention, car owners

INSTEAD of selling used car batteries to junk shops, the Pasig City Environment Office is urging motorists to bring their old batteries to them so that the hazardous chemicals could be disposed of properly and not contaminate groundwater. Raquel A. Naciongayo, the city environment office chief, said the Pasig government has hooked up with the Bulacan-based Philippine Recycling Industries, Inc. to buy used vehicle batteries from car owners. She added that the city government is willing to pay triple the P40 per battery being offered by junk shop owners to car owners who sell their used batteries to the city. Naciongayo said the batteries often end up in junk shops that do not have the experience and the equipment to get rid of the dangerous chemicals inside the batteries. The lead inside batteries is cancerous while the acid can contaminate groundwater, she added. Naciongayo said they would launch an information awareness campaign among truck and car drivers, as well as junk shop owners, about the new initiative.

Kristine L. Alave

Two new bridges

THE newly-completed Macapagal-Bridge will be inaugurated by President Macapagal-Arroyo at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Once opened to traffic, the bridge is expected to decongest traffic in the eastern part of Metro Manila, particularly Marikina City. The structure, which cost P991.9 million, will connect Marcos Highway and C5 Road via Libis, Quezon City. After the event, Ms Arroyo is also expected to attend the inauguration of Tumana Bridge, also in the city. The new bridge, which was built at the cost of P130 million, links Marikina to Quezon City.

Joseph John Raymundo

Leviste bail petition up for resolution

By DJ Yap

A MAKATI COURT HEARING the murder case involving Jose Antonio Leviste, who has been charged with killing his longtime aide Rafael de las Alas, is set to resolve the issue on whether or not to grant bail to the former Batangas governor.

The bail hearing ended yesterday as the prosecution led by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco submitted its formal offer of evidence to Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150.

Velasco told the court that the prosecution had established that the evidence against Leviste is "so strong," hence, he should be denied bail.

He said the evidence showed the De las Alas' killing "was with premeditation, deliberateness, treachery and unspeakable cruelty."

But Leviste's lawyers contended that the evidence presented by the prosecution did not prove there was premeditation, treachery, or extreme cruelty in De las Alas' killing.

Velasco cited a Department of Justice resolution dated Feb. 4, which alleged that the crime scene had been tampered with, including the purported planting of a gun on De las Alas' body. Velasco also cited the statement of Dr. Voltaire Nulud, police medico-legal officer, that the victim of a shooting always undergoes cadaveric spasm because of pain signals sent to the brain. The victim, who was shot several times, would have had multiple pain signals, making it impossible for him to hold a gun, he added.

Leviste has maintained that he shot De las Alas in self defense. His lawyer, Manuel Singson noted earlier that none of the prosecution witnesses had seen what transpired between De las Alas and Leviste on Jan. 12.

At one point during a hearing, PO2 Herman Panabang, the lead investigator, told the court that he believed the killing of De las Alas was neither treacherous nor premeditated.

Why I am persistent on Ping Lacson

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I CAN UNDERSTAND FIRST-time voters—and there are legions of them—going for opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson because of his good looks. These "kids" don't know any better.

But I can't understand why many people—old voters—would reelect Ping Lacson even if they know rumors about his dark past.

Surveys place Lacson at No. 4 or No. 6 in the winning candidates for the 12-slot Senate slate.

Obviously, people have forgotten the public confession made by Francisco "Kit" Mateo, Lacson's former henchman at the notorious Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG), and at the anti-kidnapping Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Let me remind them once again about that special episode of the now defunct "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" public service program shown five years ago on RPN 9.

Here are the highlights of Mateo's confession, which was dramatized on the show:

- The shooting to death of an unemployed young man who was a boyfriend of a coed. The coed belonged to a rich family who was a friend of Lacson's. The girl's parents disapproved of the relationship.
- The running over by a cargo truck of a former MISG detainee whose wife Alice is now Lacson's wife.
- The killing of a nine-year-old girl and her aunt who were pushed out of a helicopter allegedly by Lacson himself. The girl and the woman were niece and sister, respectively, of Joey de Leon, leader of the Red Scorpion kidnap-for-ransom gang.

They were allegedly killed after they refused to divulge de Leon's whereabouts. If you haven't seen that showI suggest you write or call RPN 9's general manager Mia Concio to have it reshown.

Why did Mateo make that confession? He was dying of cancer and wanted to make a clean breast of it. He died a few months later.

True, he made a retraction several days after he made that public confession through an ABS-CBN reporter. But at what price?

In the first place, why did Mateo call for a TV reporter to make a public confession of the "sins" he said he committed under Lacson's orders, and then turn around?

And why am I persistent in writing about the allegations against Lacson in this space?

Because a man with a past like Ping Lacson doesn't deserve the lofty position of senator of the Republic.

* * *

Reports said Catholic priest-on-leave Eddie Panlilio had an outpouring of support from constituents in Pampanga where he is running for governor.

***"Nakakapangilabut* (hair-raising)," was how former Bulacan Rep. Wilie Villarama described the welcome given to Panlilio wherever he went to campaign.**

But one of Panlilio's rivals, Pampanga Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, doesn't mind the adulation being received by the priest-candidate.

***"Di baleng iboto ng mga Kapampangan si Father Panlilio, huwag lang si* Mark Lapid (It's okay if Kapampangans vote for Father Panlilio as long as it's not Mark Lapid)," said Pineda.**

Pineda said she and Panlilio have the same goal: Rid the province of corruption.

By the way, Baby Pineda is the wife of Bong, reportedly Central Luzon's jueteng lord.

* * *

It was only proper for the Air Force chief, Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, to ground all Vietnam era UH-1H helicopters, known as "Hueys", after the crash on Mactan Island that killed not only the Huey pilots and crew but also people on the ground.

Perhaps it's time to replace the Air Force's "workhorse" with new ones.

There's no problem with our pilots, they're among the best in the world.

But Air Force machines are not as good as their handlers because they're old.

It's time to retire them.

GSOD NG M
OF MANILA

CONGRESSIONAL HOPEFUL EARNS DEGREE
Lawyer Mitch Cuna (right), who is running for congressman in Manila's 5th district, receives his diploma after completing a master's degree in government management from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila officials during the recent graduation rites. Cuna is a one of the district's incumbent councilors. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELEKSYON 2007

Police chief vows orderly polls in Quezon City

By Jeannette I. Andrade

BARELY TWO WEEKS BEFORE the May 14 elections, Quezon City police chief Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula yesterday expressed confidence that voting in the area would be one of the most peaceful and orderly in Metro Manila.

"Historically, the elections here have always been peaceful, clean and honest," he said.

Another factor which favors the holding of peaceful elections, he added, was the fact that Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, who is running for reelection, has no serious rival for the post.

Gatdula described the clash between supporters of local politicians over the posting of campaign posters late Wednesday last week as a mere misunderstanding.

"Hanggang doon na lang siguro ang insidente na iyon at hindi na lalaki pa (I think the incident will end there and it will no longer worsen)," he described.

Rommel Abesamis, who is running for congressman in the first district, earlier blamed an "unseen" hand for the incident in which Belmonte's supporters were reportedly caught tearing down his posters near his campaign headquarters.

He claimed that some individuals were trying to create a controversy between him and the mayor to adversely affect his candidacy although he did not elaborate.

Gatdula said he has ordered his men to continue securing areas where supporters of candidates are expected to gather to ensure their safety.

He also directed them to continue the crackdown on illegal firearms and to put up checkpoints and choke points to prevent election-related violent incidents in Quezon City.

Running in polls priority over pursuing American dream

By Nancy C. Carvajal

LAWYER ALBERTO "BEBONG" Muñoz used to hobnob with powerful officials in the United States, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush—brother of President Bush—and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

But he gave up what he called his share "of an American dream" when he quit his job and returned home to run for congressman of a city where most people live in poverty.

"I want to share what I have learned and serve the people who for me matters the most," the 33-year-old Muñoz told the INQUIRER during the recent signing of a peace covenant among political candidates in Caloocan City. Muñoz, who is running for congressman of the city's second district (independent) described his campaign as a "political experiment."

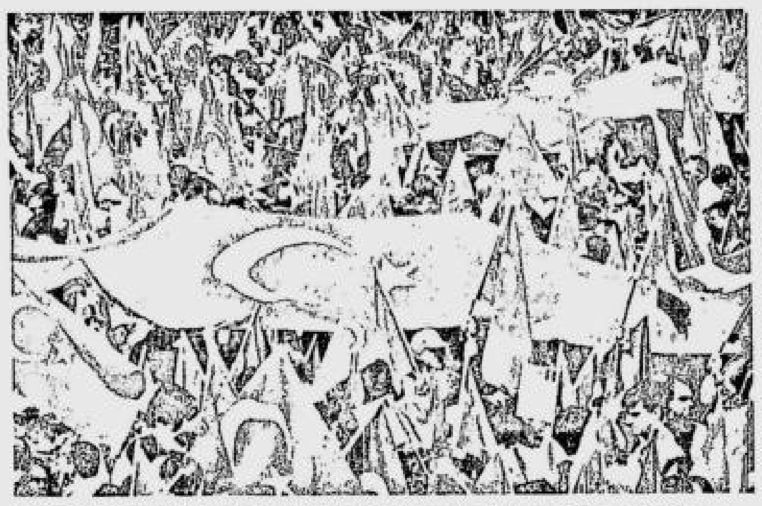
Not a stranger to politics, Munoz' mother is the sister of brothers Luis "Baby" and Macario "Boy" Asistio, who are both running for city mayor.

Luis is the incumbent congressman of Caloocan's 2nd district while Macario was the city's former mayor. Luis' son, Macario III—Muñoz's cousin—is running for councilor. Muñoz once served as city councilor from 1992 to 1996.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

A million Turks stand up for secular democracy



PRO-SECULAR DEMONSTRATORS waving Turkish flags during a rally in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 29. AP

ISTANBUL—MORE THAN A MILLION TURKS rallied here Sunday in support of secular democracy amid an unprecedented stand-off between the Islamist-rooted government and the army over the country's next president.

As calls for calm mounted, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, a former Islamist and the sole candidate in the race to become president, ruled out withdrawing his bid, defying the threat of military intervention in politics.

The prospect of Gul becoming head of state has alarmed secularists who fear the strict separation of state and religion in Turkey will be eroded and Islam will creep into all fields of life if he is elected.

"Turkey is secular and will remain secular," chanted the protestors who filled up Istanbul's sprawling Caglayan square.

"Neither Sharia nor coup d'etat. Democratic Turkey," they shouted, carrying Turkish flags and portraits of the country's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

Police at the scene said that the number of demonstrators was well over one million. It was the second such rally in two weeks, following a similar one in Ankara on April 14.

Tensions rose after Gul narrowly missed becoming the country's next president in a first round of voting in parliament on Friday.

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) dominates the 550-seat parliament, but does not have the required two-thirds majority of 367 to get Gul elected in the first two rounds of voting.

The opposition, which rejects Gul for his Islamist roots, boycotted Friday's vote.

The army, which has toppled four governments in as many decades, responded that it was determined to take action to protect the secular order if the need arose.

This made it clear, many analysts said, that Gul's candidacy was not welcome with the army top brass.

The government sharply called the army to order and Gul said he would remain in the race.

"It is out of the question for me to withdraw my candidacy in any way," he told reporters in Ankara.

The Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member, roundly condemned the army's threat as a "deliberate attempt" to influence the elections.

The army "should stay in their barracks and keep out of politics," the Council's Secretary General Terry Davis said in a statement.

The European Union, which Turkey is seeking to join, has also cautioned the army to show respect for "democratic secularism and the democratic arrangement of civil-military relations."

The main opposition party has asked the Constitutional Court to cancel Friday's presidential vote in parliament, arguing that the assembly did not have the necessary quorum to open the voting session.

If the court annuls the vote, general elections set for Nov. 4 could be brought forward. *AFP*

California freeway collapses after tanker catches fire

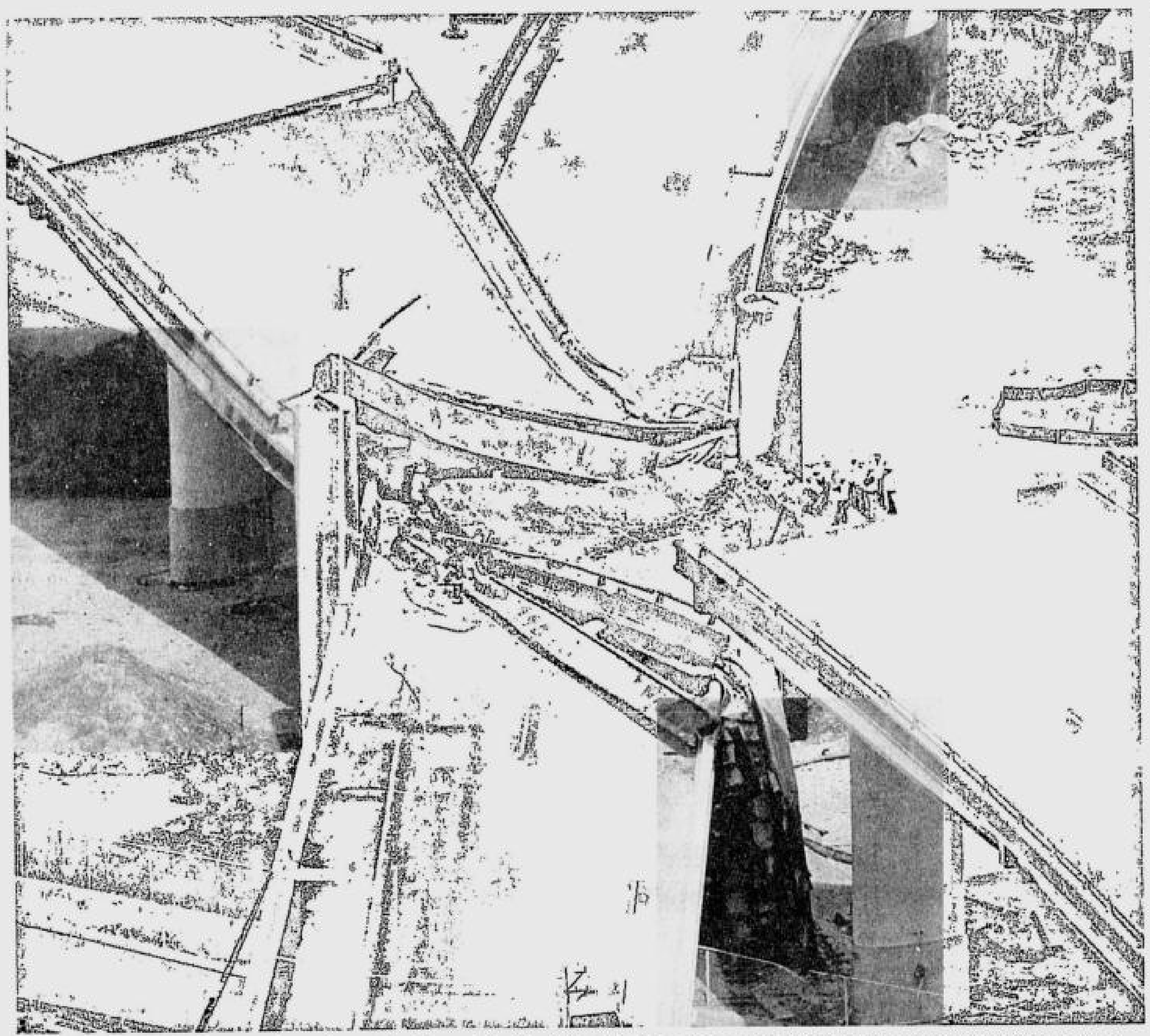
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA—A stretch of highway near the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge collapsed after a gasoline tanker crashed and burst into flames, a loss that officials said could leave freeways leading to one of the nation's busiest spans in near paralysis at rush hour. Officials said traffic will be disrupted for weeks, if not months.

Flames shot 60 meters in the air and the heat was intense enough to melt part of the freeway and cause the collapse, but the truck's driver walked away from the scene with second-degree burns. No other injuries were reported in the 3:45 a.m. Sunday crash.

Authorities said the damage could take months to repair, and that it would cause the worst disruption for Bay Area commuters since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake damaged a section of the Bay Bridge itself.

Nearly 75,000 vehicles use the portion of the road every day. But because the accident occurred where three highways converge, authorities said it could cause commuting problems for hundreds of thousands of people. State transportation officials said 280,000 commuters take the bridge into San Francisco each day.

On Sunday, the collapse doubled the half-hour trip drivers normally face getting to and from San Francisco and the eastern suburbs—even though many didn't even attempt the trip because of the crash. Traffic appeared light on the bridge itself, but motorists looking to get on and off were backed up on both sides. *AP*



AERIAL VIEW of the freeway interchange that funnels traffic off the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge collapsed onto another highway ramp in Oakland, California, on April 29, after a gasoline tanker truck overturned and caught fire, authorities said. AP

Trigger-happy in US: 4 dead after Kansas City shootings

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI—A MAN driving a dead woman's car shot a police officer, then opened fire in a parking lot and a mall, authorities said. By the end of the day, four people, including the gunman, were dead.

Police shot the gunman to death Sunday outside a Target store inside Ward Parkway Center in south Kansas City, police spokesperson Tony Sanders said.

Target employee Cassie Bradshaw, 19, was in a break room with two other people when they heard shots. Then, her coworkers saw a man in his 50s with a rifle "shooting everywhere," she said.

"It sounded like maybe firecrackers at first but then they got louder and louder and louder, and it sounded like someone shooting a gun," she said.

The string of violence began early Sunday afternoon, when police went to a home to check on an elderly woman relatives had not seen for days. The woman was found dead and her car missing, Sanders said.

The car was spotted later in the day at a gas station by an officer, who pulled the driver over and was shot in the arm, police said. The officer, whose wound was not life-threatening, returned fire and shattered the window of the gunman's car.

The car took off and was seen later at the shopping center. The man pulled into a parking space and fired at the cars on either side of him, killing two people, authorities said. He fired more shots, wounding two people, then went inside the mall, Sanders said.

Police did not say how the elderly woman died, or if the gunman was a suspect in her death. But they did say they believed the events were connected.

The mall, one of the city's busiest shopping centers, was shut down and officers were going through each store to see if anyone else might have been involved, Sanders said.

The gunman and victims' names were not immediately released, and conditions of the wounded were not available. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Russia: US rejects joint effort to explore moon

MOSCOW—The chief of Russia's space agency said that the United States has rejected a proposal by Moscow to explore the moon jointly, a Russian news agency reported. Nasa announced in December that it would establish an international base camp on one of the moon's poles, permanently staffing it by 2024. Officials with Russia's Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos, later said they had hoped to join Nasa's program with Russian technology and experience. But Roscosmos chief Anatoly Perminov was quoted by the Interfax news agency Sunday as saying that the United States had rebuffed the offer. "We are ready to cooperate but for some reasons the United States has announced that it will carry out the program itself," he was quoted as saying. "Strange as it is, the United States is short of experts to implement the program," Interfax quoted him as saying. *AP*

136 Taliban killed in Afghan battle

KABUL, Afghanistan—US-led coalition and Afghan forces battled with Taliban insurgents over three days in western Afghanistan, leaving at least 136 suspected militants dead, a coalition statement said Monday. The clashes in Herat province were the deadliest reported in Afghanistan since January and sparked angry protests by hundreds of villagers on Monday, chanting "Death to America!" Acting on intelligence about Taliban activity in Herat's Zerkoh Valley, coalition and Afghan forces attacked the insurgents and called in an air strike, destroying seven Taliban positions and killing 87 fighters during a 14-hour engagement on Sunday, the statement said. Another 49 Taliban were killed two days earlier by a combination of gunfire and an air strike, it said, adding that a US soldier was also killed in the engagement. *AP*

Development group Oxfam urges Wolfowitz to resign

WASHINGTON—International development group Oxfam urged World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz to step down in a letter on Sunday, saying his leadership had "become untenable" and the bank's poverty-fighting mission already damaged by the crisis surrounding him. In the letter released to Reuters, Oxfam International Executive Director Jeremy Hobbs said World Bank staff had clearly stated they were unable to carry out their jobs and the institution was in a state of paralysis. "Irreparable divisions have now been opened up and the role of the World Bank in the fight against poverty is being deeply compromised," Hobbs wrote, in the first public remarks by a major development group on the issue. The letter was to be published on Monday in The Guardian newspaper. "We believe that the World Bank's ability to act as a leading development institution has already been so damaged that Mr. Wolfowitz's continued presidency of the World Bank is untenable," Hobbs wrote. Wolfowitz is under fire over leaked documents that show he directed a promotion for his bank-employed girlfriend, Shaha Riza, soon after he joined the bank in 2005. *Reuters*

MEANWHILE, IN GALAPAGOS

Giant tortoises are seen on the Galapagos islands April 29, where British naturalist Charles Darwin conceived his theory of evolution. REUTERS

Chicago, other US cities offer sanctuary to illegals

CHICAGO—THE QUESTION IS TABOO for local law enforcement in many American cities: Are you a US citizen?

Chicago and other cities have declared themselves sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants, adopting ordinances that prohibit local police from asking residents about their immigration status during routine activities, such as traffic stops.

But as the debate over immigration reform has heightened, so have federal efforts to capture and remove undocumented immigrants—even in sanctuary cities.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed a record 187,513 undocumented immigrants from the country in 2006, a 10-percent increase from the previous year, the agency reported.

In fiscal year 2006, ICE recorded about 6,900 deportations for a six-state region that includes Illinois, said Gail Montenegro, a Chicago-based ICE spokesperson. That figure was up from 6,375 in 2005 and 6,300 in 2004.

"Our ultimate goal is deportation, so (those) statistics are what we have available," she said. "I would say they've been steadily increasing."

But what role local police should play in helping federal authorities arrest an increasing number of undocumented immigrants has become a point of debate.

Some communities have become willing partners with ICE, seeking training that allows them to act on behalf of federal immigration authorities. Others say local police simply do not have the resources to enforce federal immigration law.

Still others take it a step further and instruct police to turn a blind eye as long as an immigrant is not committing a crime.

Cook County, Illinois—where Chicago is located and which has an estimated 300,000 undocumented immigrants—could become the latest sanctuary. The County Board is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a resolution that would direct the sheriff's department not to help investigate anyone's citizenship or immigration status unless it involves a crime related to that status. While Chicago has been a sanctuary since 1989, those protections do not extend to the rest of Cook County.

"Hard-working immigrants and their families should feel safe and welcome in Cook County," said Roberto Maldonado, a commissioner whose district includes a church where an undocumented Mexican woman has been sheltered while defying a federal deportation order.

"We must do what we can to provide the environment necessary to keep our families united," he said in a written statement. "Immigrants are an asset to our economy, our culture and our future in Cook County."

Other communities have taken a similar stance. Officials in Cambridge, Massachusetts—calling for federal immigration reform—declared the city a sanctuary last year, updating a designation it first took in 1985. Houston, Los Angeles and Phoenix also are among cities that have declared immigrant sanctuaries.

But sanctuary cities are coming under increasing fire from opponents who say the measures interfere with federal law enforcement and promote criminal behavior.

Randy Pullen, chair of the Republican Party in Arizona, has helped organize a movement to repeal Phoenix's sanctuary measure, which he contends sends a message that it is OK to break the law and has created an environment that allows gang members and crime to flourish.

Pullen said, "I'm not saying the typical immigrant is here to steal or commit crimes—many of them are here to work—but because we create this illicit group of people in our country, we have this illegal activity that revolves around them." *AP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Bulls oust Heat; Mavs on brink /A23

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NCR booters clinch crown

Unseat Negros on Araneta header

ANDY ALVAREZ

TOURNAMENT MVP Emelio Caligdong holds the trophy aloft as teammates and NCR officials celebrate their victory.

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—NCR STRIKER Ian Araneta streaked across the goal-line, took off his jersey and let out a scream that was audible enough for a stunned Panaad stadium crowd.

Araneta's header had smashed a 1-1 tie and given NCR a precarious advantage with 18 minutes to go. And if only for the effort he exerted in scoring, any kind of celebration would have been warranted.

But then delight turned to anxiety. Araneta was yellow-carded for the second time and sent off for going topless in celebrating the goal that eventually decided the contest.

Save for that needless red card, however, the Big City booters were in command and hung on for the tight 2-1 victory that dethroned Negros Occidental in the final of the 2007 PFF Centennial National Men's Open Championships at the Panaad Park and Stadium here.

"I got too excited," Araneta, who was part of the NCR squad that bowed to Negros, 2-1, in last year's final, told the INQUIRER. "It was a good thing our defense kept us in the lead until the end."

Negros incisiveness absent

Floriano Pasilan of the University of St. La Salle had given Negros the edge 15 minutes into the match when he headed the ball past NCR keeper Michael Casas after a Philip Caballero lob.

Except for the sequence, though, the incisiveness that highlighted Negros' previous victories was absent and NCR was getting the lion's share of the possession early on.

"We dominated the match and defended very well," said NCR coach Edwin Cabalida, whose team of Air Force and Union FC players survived a penalty shootout with Iloilo Saturday night to reach the finals.

The equalizer came just seconds after the break when Yanti Bersales volleyed home inside six yards after a long pass from Jobel Bermejo.

Moments later, Negros coach Ramon Janeo took a gamble, sending in FJ Serios for captain Norman Fegidero. But Serios' insertion failed to turn the tide and NCR continued to dominate.

Negros, which scored 18 goals en route to the finals, pushed forward after Araneta's dismissal and was almost rewarded with an injury-time equalizer through Dave Fegidero, whose long-range effort was parried by Casas.

Memories of last year

Years of rivalry and memories of last year's finals meant there were plenty of crunching tackles.

Araneta and Negros defender Carlos Bolo typified the volatile state of the match when they nearly engaged in a scuffle midway through the second half, resulting in both players getting booked.

The physical play, however, was overshadowed by the brilliance of Most Valuable Player Emelio Caligdong, who started playing in the national championships as a high school senior in 2000.

The diminutive winger from Barotac Nuevo, one of the RP Team's top scorers the past three years, was a menace to the Negros defense and his stinging shot from 10 yards in the 66th minute forced a great save from Archie Bayquin.

While his former teammates were left in despair, Ziggy Tonog, who captained Negros to the title last year, was on top of the podium for the second straight year—this time with NCR.

Earlier, Iloilo dominated North Cotabato, 5-0, in the battle for third place. Roman Paolo Suner scored two goals, before Ruben Doctora Jr. clinched the best striker award by scoring his seventh marker of the campaign.

The other individual awardees were Bayquin, best goalkeeper; Bermejo, best defender and Raymond Suarez of Iloilo, best midfielder. The Chris Monfort Fair Play award also went to Iloilo.

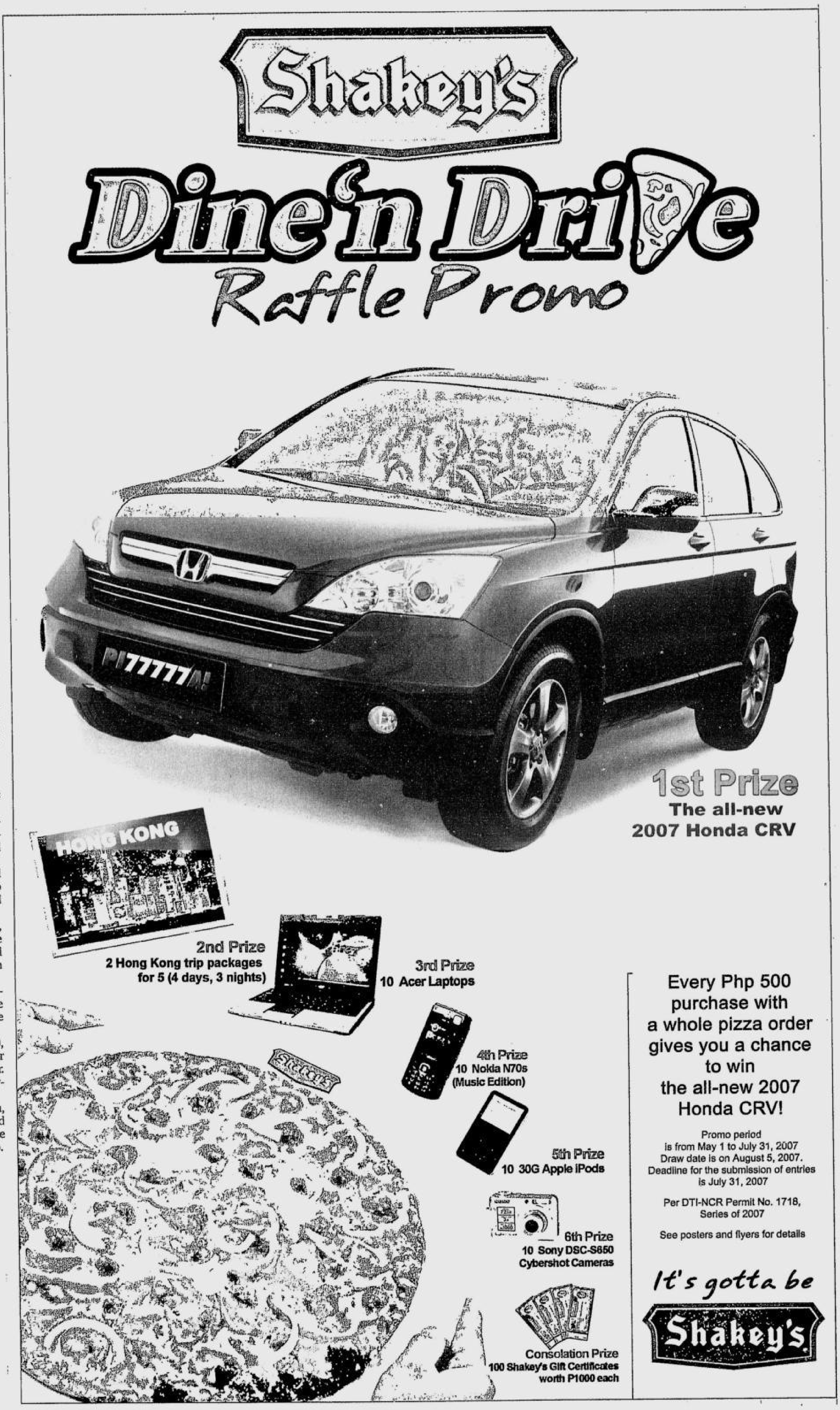
Manalo prevails in Florida pool

MANALO

FILIPINO MARLON Manalo bounced back from the losers' bracket to rule the 2007 Seminole Florida Pro Tour 9-ball stop in Palm Harbor, Florida.

Manalo trounced American Tony

MANALO/ A22



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It's gotta be Shakey's

FIESTA FISTIANA STUNNER

Escaner retains title with draw

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

PHILIPPINE SUPER BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION Alex Escaner kept his title with a hard-earned majority draw against a gutsy Jake Verano Sunday night in the mainer of the PSA Fiesta Fistiana card at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Manila.

Verano looked the better fighter throughout—especially in rounds eight, nine and 10—when he had the defending champion in dire straits but he could not convince two of the three judges.

Judge Narciso Martinez scored the bout 116-112 for Verano, but this went to naught with Alex Villacampa and Ramon Flores ruling the fight even at 114-114 and 115-115, respectively.

Fans showed their displeasure by booing the verdict. Even Escaner himself believed he lost the fight.

"Hindi ko din akalain na makakalusot pa ako (I thought I was a goner)," said the 32-year-old Escaner of the Marty Elorde Stable, whose win-loss-draw record improved to 25-12-6.

"Malakas yung kalaban, hindi na ako makasuntok nung huli kasi mabigat na ang katawan ko. Mabuti na lang at nakuha ko pa itong panalo (My opponent is strong and I got tired in the end. I was lucky to win)."

The third-ranked Verano, 25, saw his record drop to 17-9-2 even as his handler, Leonil Lazarito, vowed to seek a rematch with Escaner.

The card was organized by the Philippine Sportswriters Association in cooperation with the Games and Amusements Board and the City of Manila to raise funds for destitute and disabled boxers.

San Miguel Corp., Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission were the main sponsors. The other supporters were Philippine Airlines, Caltex Philippines and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Second-ranked strawweight Denver Cuello stopped Carlo Besares in the first round of their scheduled 10-rounder while Gerry Peñalosa ward Michael Farenas, No. 1 in the featherweight division, needed only two of the scheduled eight rounds to put away former RP champion Jeffrey Onate in the top supporting bouts.

The country's No. 4 super bantamweight Jun Talape settled for a majority 10-round decision against the flamboyant Johnny Lear.

In fights featuring women boxers, Gretchen Abaniel stopped Baina Londo in the first round of their 105-lb match while Jeramie Tabas-Tabas of Pasig City scored a majority decision over Jujeath Nagawa of Baguio City in their 112-lb fight.

The four-round bouts saw Jason Perater of Mandaluyong City winning over Ruel Cuizon of Binangonan by unanimous decision in their 128-lb encounter and Jurland Ceniza of Cagayan de Oro prevailing by split decision over Francis Borreros of Sampaloc, Manila, in their 135-lb match.

INQUIRER PHOTO / RUDY ESPERAS

ALEX Escaner (right) seems to be consoling Jake Verano after the fight.

Archers flash mean form, rout PMI by 38

THE ROCK-SOLID DE LA SALLE Archers, showing their readiness for the coming UAAP season, tore Philippine Maritime Institute to shreds, 110-72, in their 2007 Nike Summer League debut at the Far Eastern gym over the weekend.

Simon Atkins scored 17 points and four others chipped in 10 points or more in the wire-to-wire victory.

PJ Walsham contributed 13 points, Hyram Bagatsing added 12, Rico Maierhofer was good for 11 and Cholo Villanueva 10 in the swashbuckling Group B victory.

Feati, with Marlon Bituin scattering 19 points, surged to a third straight win, a 107-100 decision of Polytechnic University in Group C.

Other matches saw Mapua humbling Ateneo de Zamboanga, 94-72, in Group A, and Adamson tripping San Beda, 64-53.

Mapua improved to 1-1 as Neil Pascual led the Cardinals with 18 points and 15 rebounds.

The Archers will be making their much-awaited UAAP return in July after serving a one-year suspension.

In women's play, Far Eastern University overwhelmed Centro Escolar, 100-51; Santo Tomas routed Emilio Aguinaldo, 80-34; Adamson outclassed PCCr, 71-44; National University humbled PUP, 65-58; and University of the Philippines trounced Perpetual Help, 85-37.

Musong R. Castillo

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIAL GASES, INC. 30/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Kashyap Roy	Head, Finance & Control
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, #7 Eisenhower St., San Juan, Metro Manila	Kyung Hee Ra (wife of JOO)	Exec. Asst. Manager
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condominium, #7 Eisenhower St., San Juan, Metro Manila	Sunhee Jang	Marketing Asst. Manager
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F, Robinsons Summit Ctr., 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thi Thanh Huong Nguyen	Vietnamese Client Support
J. S. DREAM AD, INC. 10-A Chatham House, 116 Valero St., cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Jong Jung Park	Director
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Matthias Teuchert	Consultant
E & TRADE COMMUNICATIONS PHILS, INC. U 3101-B East Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Dongsun Choi (wife of YU)	Marketing Manager
SOOWAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES CORPORATION Unit B, 10/F Aurora Milestone Tower, 1045 Aurora Blvd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City	Sang Mook Lee	Material Manager
SOOWAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES CORPORATION Unit B, 10/F Aurora Milestone Tower, 1045 Aurora Blvd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City	Duk Jong Lee	Senior Vice President
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SOLUTIONS GROUP INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 2102 The Philippines Axa Life Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	William Delavan Baldwin II	President
THE BARON TRAVEL CORPORATION Lower Ground, Cityland 10 Tower 2, HV Dela Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Mitsuo Kashiwada	Vice President-Japanese Division
CLARIS LIFESCIENCES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12A, 122 Valero Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Priyankbhai Pravinbhai Patel	Sales Manager
CLARIS LIFESCIENCES PHILIPPINES, INC. 12A, 122 Valero Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Vikram Singh Chahal	General Manager
REYREY AUTOMOTIVE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, INC. 5/F Rufino Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Rufino St., Makati City	Grant Kelvyn Sjoberg	Project Manager-International

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI-May 1, 2007)

Whoppers seek No. 5

DAZZ'S Larry Rodriguez (center) puts up a shot off Toyota Balintawak's Patrick Cabahug and Marco Fajardo in a recent game. Dazz won. RYAN LIM

BURGER KING ATtempts to keep its unbeaten slate while defending champion Harbour Centre guns for a second straight win as they take on separate tough rivals today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

STANDINGS	W	L
Burger King	4	0
Harbour	3	1
C. Lhuillier	3	1
Toyota Bal.	2	2
Dazz	1	3
Magnolia	1	3
Henkel-Sista	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Burger King
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs CL Pera Padala

The Burger Whoopers shoot for victory No. 5 against the Toyota Balintawak Road Kings at 2 p.m. while Harbour Centre's Batang Pier tackle the Cebuana Lhuillier Pera Padala Moneymen at 4 p.m.

The Whoppers needed two extra periods to turn back a stubborn Dazz 'Sang Patak, 101-98, on Saturday in a game where Ronjay Buenafe reinforced his status as the league's newest star.

After averaging 23 points in Burger King's last two matches, Buenafe clinched the league's first Player of the Week award, although he's up against an equally hot Patrick Cabahug this time.

Cabahug hit a three-pointer to spark a third-quarter rally that allowed the Road Kings (2-2) to overhaul a 20-point deficit and beat Henkel Sista, 78-71, last week.

The Batang Pier and Moneymen tote similar 3-1 slates and odds are even with both teams coming off big wins.

Harbour trounced San Miguel-Magnolia, 79-72, while the Moneymen subdued Dazz 'Sang Patak, 101-98, in overtime.

For Cebuana coach Luigi Trillo, playing against a star-studded team like Harbour Centre is every team's biggest challenge in the league.

Harbour Centre's coaching staff has several offensive options, among them last conference MVP Jason Castro, Chico Lanete, JC Intal, Ryan Araña, Jojo Duncil and a slew of veteran big men.

"If you stop Jason, then they still have Chico, JC and other Jojo," said Trillo. "Harbour is the barometer in the league. If you beat them, then you have good chances in this tournament."

But Harbour coach Jorge Gallent does not buy Trillo's argument.

"We have pretty good materials in the team but if we don't play as a team we're nothing," Gallent said.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Pagadian five turns back Ozamiz; Quezon prevails

OZAMIZ CITY—PAGAdian City Explorers sizzled in the payoff period to topple grand slam champion Ozamiz Cotta, 77-74, Sunday in the 2007 NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

STANDINGS	W	L
Iligan	5	0
Tagaytay	3	0
Valencia	4	2
Pagadian	5	3
MP GenSan	2	4
Davao	2	4
Ozamiz	1	2
Quezon	2	5
Toyota Iloilo	1	5

The backcourt tandem of Maui Huelar and Mike Orquillas combined with John Villaver to propel the fiery comeback of Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers against the Cotta Shrine five of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog.

Over in Lucena City, Quezon Villa Anita Snapped a five-game losing skid by beating Montaña Pawnshop-Davao, 80-69.

It was the fifth win in eight games for the Explorers but only the second for Quezon.

Orquillas and Villaver paced the Explorers, who dealt Ozamiz its second loss in three games.

Businessman Armando Quibod's Jewellers threatened in the third period behind Henry Fernandez and Tonyboy Espinosa, but Bryan Gahol got able support from recruits Jeff Sanders and Danny Capobres to preserve Quezon's victory.

Action resumes today with unbeaten Tagaytay Spring facing Davao at the Oreta Sports Complex in Malabon.

The scores:

QUEZON 80—Gahol 14, Sanders 13, Malonzo 10, Mendoza 10, Gumatay 7, Capobres 7, Veranga 5, Buenaventura 4, Vilar 4, Atablanco 3, Agapito 2, Dela Cruz 1, Drio 0.

DAVAO 69—Fernandez 15, Ayron 15, Espinosa 13, Jawod 5, Gonzaga 4, Braga 4, Abanes 4, Ilanga 3, Lamocha 2, Quibod 0.

Quarters: 22-14, 35-33, 53-53, 80-69

• • •

PAGADIAN 77—Orquillas 13, Villaver 13, Singedas 10, Cortez 9, Saludsod 9, Daja 7, Mamaclay 5, Huelar 4, Pamaran 3, Naron 2, Sinco 2, Arquero 0, Naguit 0.

OZAMIZ 74—Basco 18, Cavan 18, Dacia 13, Gatumbato 12, Bansil 8, Nicdao 6, Sampilo 2, Libatog 2, Balares 0, Alberto 0, Alvarado 0, Tiongson 0.

Quarters: 21-6, 43-36, 56-57, 77-74

Marcelo eyes 3rd win in row

HOPING THAT LUCK COMES IN THREES, Jean Stefano Marcelo of Marcelo Racing is eyeing another big win against the favorites this weekend as the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series returns to the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 16-year-old Marcelo, who ruled the kickoff leg last month, affirmed his spot among the country's elite karters when he turned back Alessandra Racing drivers Matteo Guidicelli and Mark Bumgarner in the Formula Open 125.

And his third place feat in the Belgian Karting Championship last Sunday will serve as a morale booster in his bid to snatch a third straight win.

"We're very proud to raise the Philippine flag in Belgium, and we're just hoping our winning streak continues at Carmona this weekend," said Marcelo.

Also favored in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) are Mike Casimiro of 02Karting and Birel Motorsports drivers Indy Villalon and Franco Reyes.

Casimiro also aims for his third straight win in the ROK Seniors class against Kaine Gandionco of the Cebu Racing Group.

Manalo triumphs in Florida

From page A21

Chohan, 9-3, in the finals to pocket the top prize of $3,500, according to a report in the website AZbilliards on Monday.

The 30-year-old Puyat Sports mainstay started with wins over John Trelevas (7-2), Lee Chenman (7-3), Hunter Lombardo (7-3) and Nathan Rose (8-4)before losing to Danny Harriman on a hill-hill match, 8-7.

Manalo bounced with an 8-6 win against Ignacio Chavez. He downed Rose again, 8-5, then got back at Harriman, 8-7, to arrange a title clash with Chohan, who settled for the second prize of $2,000.

Harriman took the third prize of $1,500 with Rose picking up the fourth prize of $1,200.

Manalo finished runner-up in the 2nd BSCP National Open behind Lee Van Corteza. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Another Siso comes to fore

DUMAGUETE CITY—SALLYDINE SISO KEPT the family's winning tradition in the Visayas region with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Kristel Mae Buenacosa in the girls' 16-under final, and Macy Solon shown for the locals in the recent 2007 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Praxevilia Tennis Club here. Sallydine, whose siblings Sally Mae and Bernardine are competing in the World Youth Championships in India, and Solon—who also dealt Buenacosa a 6-1, 6-3 beating in the girls' 18-under final—shared the limelight with Lawrence Tayros in the unisex 10-under, Helibros Pao in the boys' 12-under, Alex Batinol in the 14-under, June Montalbo in the 16-under and Kennex Abadia in the 18-under. Queen Togonon routed Devina Daug, 6-0, 6-1, to bag the girls' 12-under title in the netfest which is celebrating its 20th year and is organized by CTW with support from Prince equipment and Philta.

Poker tourney stakes P3M

PACIFIC POKER PALACE IS DANGLING A guaranteed prize of P1 million each on two Saturdays next month in the No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournaments at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City. Ben dela Cruz of Pacific Poker Palace said the P1 million events are on May 12 and 26 with an entry fee of P2,000 and a buy-in of P20,000. Dela Cruz said prizes of P250,000 and P100,000 are also up for grabs on May 5 and 19, respectively. There are also guaranteed prizes of between P10,000 and P30,000 in the other days of May.

De La Hoya fight at Gateway

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 AT GATEWAY MALL OF the Araneta Center will show the Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather superfight live via satellite at 8 a.m. Monday. De La Hoya will defend his WBC light middleweight title against the world's best pound-for-pound fighter at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. The pay-per-view show is without commercial breaks. For inquiries, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Blue Mountain derby today

THE MUCH-AWAITED HATAW-PINOY TAGAPO 5-Cock Derby gets going today with 120 entries seeing action at the new Blue Mountain Sports Arena in Cogeo, Antipolo City. Hosted by lawyer Joey "Tagapo" Mendoza, sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds and backed by Hataw Pinoy (shown Sundays at 10 a.m. on IBC-13, the P1-million derby has drawn some of the biggest names in local cockfighting. Participants include NFGB president Ricoy Palmares, Charlie Cruz of Marikina, Dado Mitra, RGBA president Joey Sy, Don Mauro Prieto, Bong Artajos, Alex Costales, Pete Buendia, Lee Castillo, Edsel Du and Gov. Ito Ynares, LJ Sumulong and Eddie de los Santos.

Bulls oust Heat; Mavs on brink

Chicago dethrones Miami in four; Suns, Nets up, 3-1

MIAMI—THE CHICAGO BULLS SWEPT the defending NBA champion Miami Heat out of the playoffs on Sunday, winning a postseason series for the first time since the Michael Jordan era.

Ben Gordon scored 24 points, Luol Deng had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Chicago beat Miami, 92-79, in Game 4 to finish off their first-round Eastern Conference series.

The Bulls, who will face Detroit in the second round, became the first team to oust a defending champion in the opening playoff series since Phoenix did it to San Antonio in 2000.

The coach of that Suns team? Scott Skiles, who coaches the Bulls now—and who put together a plan that simply befuddled Miami all series long.

Dwyane Wade scored 24 points for Miami on 8-for-22 shooting, and added 10 assists.

Shaquille O'Neal had 16 points, Alonzo Mourning scored 14 and James Posey had 18 rebounds—a club-record 17 on the defensive end—for the Heat.

Miami, which didn't trail until late in the third quarter, got within one point twice in the fourth—first on a jumper by Wade with 11:15 left, then when Posey made two free throws with 5:27 remaining. Chicago had an answer both times.

Warriors make it 3-1 over Mavs

In Oakland, the Dallas Mavericks' bid to get back to the finals was on the rocks after another shock loss to the Golden State Warriors.

Baron Davis scored 33 points and the Golden State Warriors stormed back to beat the top-seeded Mavericks, 103-99.

They took a three-games-to-one lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference first-round series.

"We came to play tonight, but we just didn't have a good finish to the game," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said.

"We gave Baron different looks, but he's just making tough shots. We tried to trap him five times, and he got through our traps, that's not a good sign."

Suns 113, Lakers 100

At Los Angeles, Steve Nash had 23 assists—one shy of the NBA playoff record—to go with 17 points, Amare Stoudemire had 27 points and a career playoff-high 21 rebounds, and Phoenix took a 3-1 lead over Los Angeles.

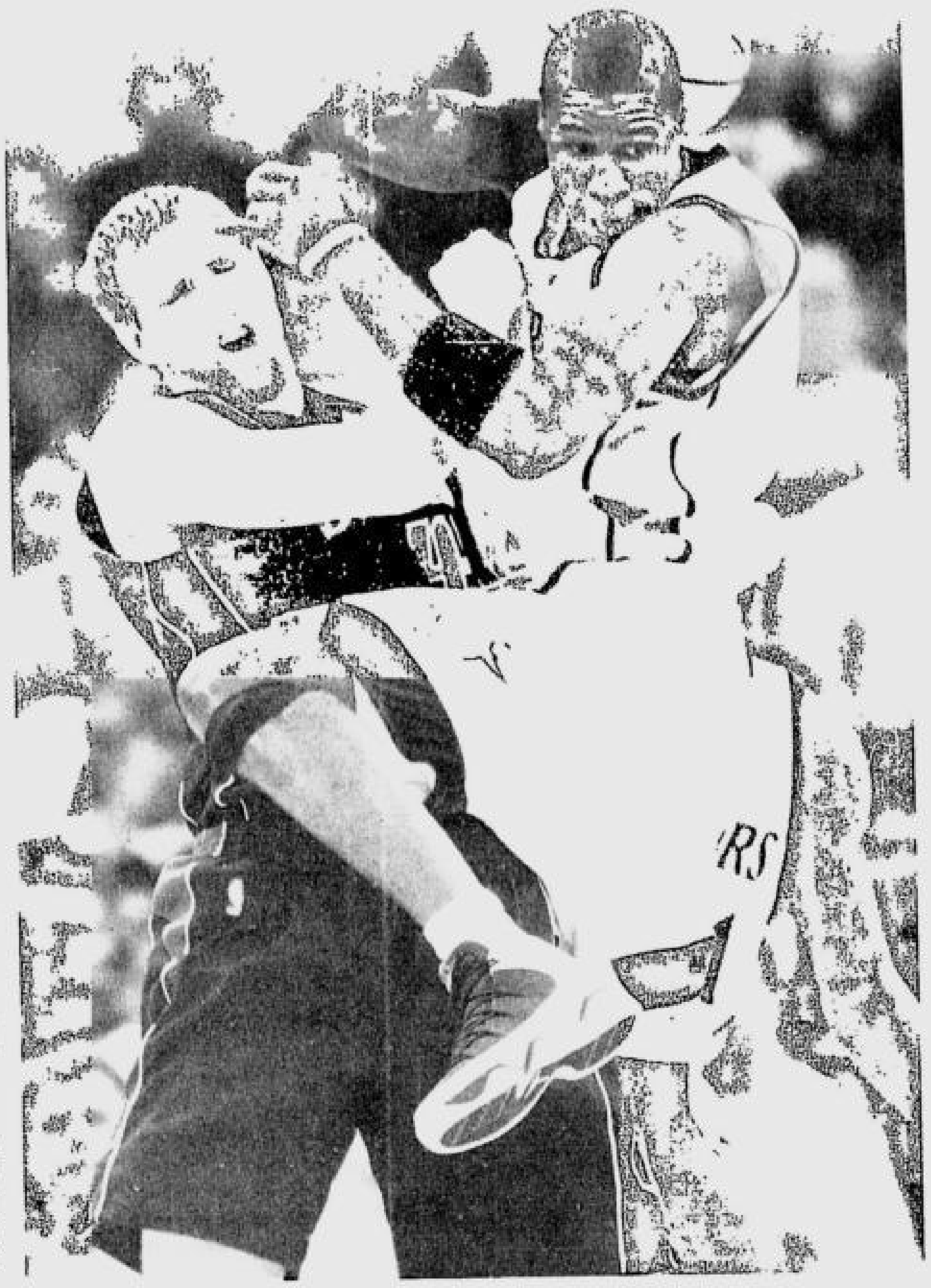
Nash left the game to a mixed reception with 1:02 remaining and the outcome long since decided. Magic Johnson and John Stockton share the single-game playoff assist record—Johnson doing so for the Lakers against Phoenix in 1984, and Stockton accomplishing the feat against the Lakers for Utah four years later.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 31 points, seven rebounds and nine assists, but had only three points in the fourth quarter.

Nets 102, Raptors 81

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 27 points, Richard Jefferson added 23, and New Jersey took a 3-1 lead over Atlantic Division champion Toronto with the second-biggest playoff win in franchise history.

New Jersey can advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a victory in Game 5 on Tuesday. *Inquirer Wires*



GOLDEN State Warriors' Michael Pietrus (right) grabs the rebound from Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki in the second quarter of their Western Conference quarterfinal game in Oakland. The Warriors are up, 3-1. AP

Valero vows to preserve clean slate

TOKYO—VENEZUELA'S WORLD Boxing Association super featherweight champion Edwin Valero is favored to remain undefeated when he takes on Japanese challenger Nobuhito Honmo on Thursday.

The 25-year-old Valero, the defending champion, has won 21 out of 21 bouts, all of them knockout victories, including a world record of 18 consecutive first-round wins.

His streak ended in March last year when he needed two rounds to pull off a technical knockout (TKO) in his 19th bout.

In August 2006 he snatched the WBA title from Vicente Mosquera of Panama.

In January this year, Valero got back to his old habits by knocking out Michael Lozada of Mexico in only 72 seconds in his first defence of the title.

"I'm determined to keep hitting punches until Honmo gives up or a towel is thrown. I have a thundering left. I can pulverize his guard with this punch," vowed the Tokyo-based Venezuelan.

Honmo, second in the WBA rankings, has 29 wins, including five KOs, against four defeats and two draws.

He vowed that he would hang up his gloves if he loses. *AFP*

Nadal simply unbeatable on clay

BARCELONA, SPAIN—RAFAEL NADAL defeated Guillermo Canas, 6-3, 6-4, on Sunday to become only the second player to win a third straight Open Seat Godo in its 55-year history.

Mats Wilander was the first—from 1982-84.

"To win another final at my home club is a great feeling," second-ranked Nadal said. "When I won the first it was like a dream, so to win it for a third time is an amazing feeling."

It was the 20th career ATP title for Nadal, who has won his last 12 clay tournaments, and an Open era record 72 singles on clay over more than two years.

He hasn't dropped a set on dirt since top-ranked Roger Federer won the first set of their French Open final last year.

Until he won the Masters title at Indian Wells in March, Nadal hadn't won a title in eight months. Now he's won three of his last four events.

Nadal improved to 3-0 against Canas.

Canas, playing his second straight final following the Sony Ericsson Open this month, had two break points in the first game but couldn't convert. They were his last break chances. *AFP*

RAFAEL Nadal (left) pours champagne over runner-up Guillermo Canas. AP

Verplank tops Byron Nelson

IRVING, TEXAS—SCOTT VERPLANK used three straight birdies and Luke Donald's lead-blowing double bogey on Sunday to take the lead and then take the Byron Nelson Championship, the tournament he always wanted to win.

Verplank holed a final 2-foot par putt at No. 18 for a one-stroke victory.

Sadly missing for Verplank was a personal congratulation from Nelson, who died last September at age 94. But Nelson's wife, Peggy, was there clutching one of his famed fedoras in her hand when she hugged Verplank.

Verplank closed with a 4-under-66 for a 13-under 267 total, a stroke ahead of Donald (68) for his fifth US PGA Tour victory, his first since the 2001 Canadian Open. Phil Mickelson (65), Jerry Kelly (64), Rory Sabbatini (64) and Ian Poulter (66) tied for third at 10 under. *AP*

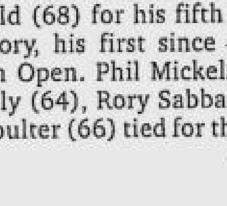
Cavalleri wins first LPGA tournament

MORELIA, MEXICO—ITALY'S Silvia Cavalleri won the Corona Morelia Championship for her first US LPGA Tour title, closing with a 7-under 66 for a two-stroke victory over Mexican star Lorena Ochoa and Paraguay's Julieta Granada on Sunday. Cavalleri finished with a 20-under 272 total on the Tres Marias course and earned $195,000 (euro143,000). *AP*

GAB should not treat promoters lightly

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS Board should show more teeth in dealing with those responsible for bringing Lito Sisnorio to Thailand without a GAB permit.

The little-known Sisnorio, 24, died on March 31 a day after he was knocked out by former world champion Chatchai Sasakul in the fourth round of a scheduled eight-rounder.

The fight was a gross mismatch by any measure.

Sisnorio succumbed to cerebral hematoma (bleeding in the brain) in a Thai hospital hours after absorbing his third knockout loss in just two months.

Prodded to act by an angry public, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation apprehended and, subsequently, filed criminal charges (illegal recruitment) against a certain Ranilo Terania, alias Bong Obero, the alleged mastermind of a syndicate bringing impoverished Filipino fighters abroad.

Also charged were the GAB-registered manager of Sisnorio, Gemmil Contayoso of Kidapawan City, former Philippine flyweight champion Rey Paciones, an alleged Terania accomplice, Thai boxing matchmaker/agent Panya Prachakorn and boxing manager Vic Adreano.

"This is a big win for us," said a beaming GAB chair Eric Buhain in a TV interview. "And I'd like to commend the NBI for acting swiftly. This is just the first step."

* * *

Congress can also help by filing a bill to further protect the welfare of the country's professional boxers, most of whom are born poor, unschooled and runaways, too nervous to even steal.

I remember that during the last Congress, House Bill No. 5069, also called the Flash Elorde Boxing Reform Act, was filed but I don't know what happened to it. HB 5069 was similar to the landmark Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Boxing Act which aims not only to protect pro boxers from ring injuries but also from the machinations of greedy promoters and managers.

* * *

We regularly read of boxers being exploited, of boxers being pitted in gross mismatches. The most recent was the one held at the Victoria City Gym in Negros Occidental where highly favored Filipino champion Donnie Nietes successfully defended his WBO Asia Pacific 105-lb title against undistinguished Thai boxer Thongthailek Por Vorasing in just two rounds.

A few years back, in a bout held in Mandaue City, Cebu, former World Boxing Council super flyweight titleholder Gerry Peñalosa was declared the winner by knockout over Samingkao Chutipol of Thailand in the second round although the Thai did not receive a single punch.

These bouts boggle the mind. Isn't the GAB supposed to assure the public that every promotion is balanced and contributes to the enhancement of public interest in pro boxing? How on earth did these farcical bouts happen? What on earth is wrong with the GAB?

* * *

When we read about the deaths or injuries of these boxers or see them on television, we feel a sense of outrage, shock, anger and sadness. Why should these things happen?

There were other ring fatalities aside from Sisnorio, among them Maruel Zayas, Andy Balaba, Restituto Espenili, Mauro Saucelo, Macky Siluano, Eugene Barutag, John Eman Juarez and Freddie Gimay. Some boxers have fallen on hard times like former world junior lightweight champion Rolando Navarrete and ex-featherweight titlist Luisito Espinosa while many others have suffered debilitating ring injuries, including Pretty Boy Lucas, Al Asuncion, Dommy Ursua, Rey Tam, Tito Abella and Fred Basa.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Balagtas, Batangas City
Tel. No. 043-783-3325/043-402-1878 • Fax No. 043-783-0449
Website www.nfa.gov.ph • E-mail Address: nfaro4_rbac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROJECT NAME PROCUREMENT OF TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES FOR 2007 IN REGION IV

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), Regional Office IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of trucking and hauling services for 2007 in the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon (for Infanta and Lucena Branches), Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro (for Mamburao and San Jose Branches), Oriental Mindoro, Palawan and Romblon as follows:

Lot No.	Activity/Route	Estimated Distance of Each Route (Range in kms)	Estimated Volume (Bags of 50 kgs)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Minimum No. of TH Trucks Required
1	**Transfer of grains in Batangas Province/Lubang, Laguna and Quezon (Infanta & Lucena Branches)**		4,365,000	P 39,883,550.00	40
	a. From designated Pier to designated warehouses in Batangas	6	2,400.00	P 14,400,000.00	
	b. From designated warehouses in Baingas to designated ports	6 to 13	630,000	P 3,780,000.00	
	c. Movement within Batangas	8 to 12	50,000	P 300,000.00	
	d. Transfer of grains at Lubang to and from Tria Whse. and Tilik Port	0.50	15,000	P 49,500.00	
	e. Transfer of Grains to and from North Harbor to GID Balagtas	112	15,000	P 294,000.00	
	f. Transfer of grains from designated warehouses in Batangas to designated warehouses in Laguna	65.55 to 77.50	540,000	P 7,414,000.00	
	g. From designated warehouses in Batangas to designated warehouses in Quezon (Lucena Branch)	55.70 to 128.20	560,000	P 10,031,800.00	
	h. Transfer of grains from designated warehouses in Batangas to designated warehouses in Infanta	179	125,000	P 3,356,250.00	
	i. Transfer of grains from designated port to designated warehouses within Lucena Branch, Quezon	12 to 56	30,000	P 258,000.00	
2	**Transfer of grains in the Province of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro**		1,590,950	P 12,064,549.60	25
	a. Transfer of grains within the area covered by NFA, Mamburao Branch (to and from designated buying stations / warehouses / ricemills and ports)	Within 5 to 64	423,850	P 4,937,640.00	
	b. Transfer of grains within the area covered by NFA San Jose Branch (to and from buying stations / warehouse / ricemills and ports)	Less than 1 to 32	977,700	P 5,224,380.00	
	c. Transfer of grains within Oriental Mindoro (from and to designated warehouses and ports)	Within 5 to 132.60	189,400	P 1,902,529.60	
3	**Transfer of grains within the Province of Palawan**		363,000	P 3,668,850.00	5
	a. From designated ports to designated warehouses within Palawan	0.3 to 4.0	315,000	P 1,623,750.00	
	b. Inter-warehouse transfers	64 to 139	48,000	P 2,045,100.00	
4	**Transfer of grains from port to designated warehouses in Marinduque**	19 to 52	120,000	P 1,170,000.00	5
5	**Transfer of grains within Romblon from designated ports to designated warehouses (Romblon, Tablas and Sibuyan Islands)**	0.50 to 5.0	120,000	P 590,000.00	5
	REGION IV GRAND TOTAL		6,558,950	P 57,376,949.60	80

The funding source is the Government of the Philippines through the General Appropriations Act of 2007

Prospective bidders should have an experience of having completed within the last five (5) years a **Single Contract** that is similar to the contract to be bid, and whose value adjusted to the current prices using the wholesale consumer price index must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the project to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage to finally determine the responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements of the project.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 2 - 15, 2007 (Excluding Sat., Sun. & Holidays)
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 16, 2007 at 10:00AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	May 28, 2007 at 10:00AM
4. Bid Evaluation	May 29-30, 2007
5. Post - qualification	May 31 - June 01, 2007
6. Notice of Award	June 04, 2007

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from National Food Authority, Region IV Office at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City upon payment to the NFA Cashier of non refundable fee in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00)

The mode of payment shall be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to NFA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Regional Office IV Building, Balagtas Batangas City. All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security in the form and in the amount as indicated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The duration of the Contract shall be from the date of the signing/approval of the Contract until Dec. 31, 2007 or upon completion of delivery/transfer of grains/cargoes from designated point of origin to destination of the estimated volume.

A successful bidder is required to submit an Inland Marine Insurance Policy/Coverage and NFA's Certificate of Registration as Grains Transporter for the trucks to be used in the completion of the project before the issuance of the Notice of Award.

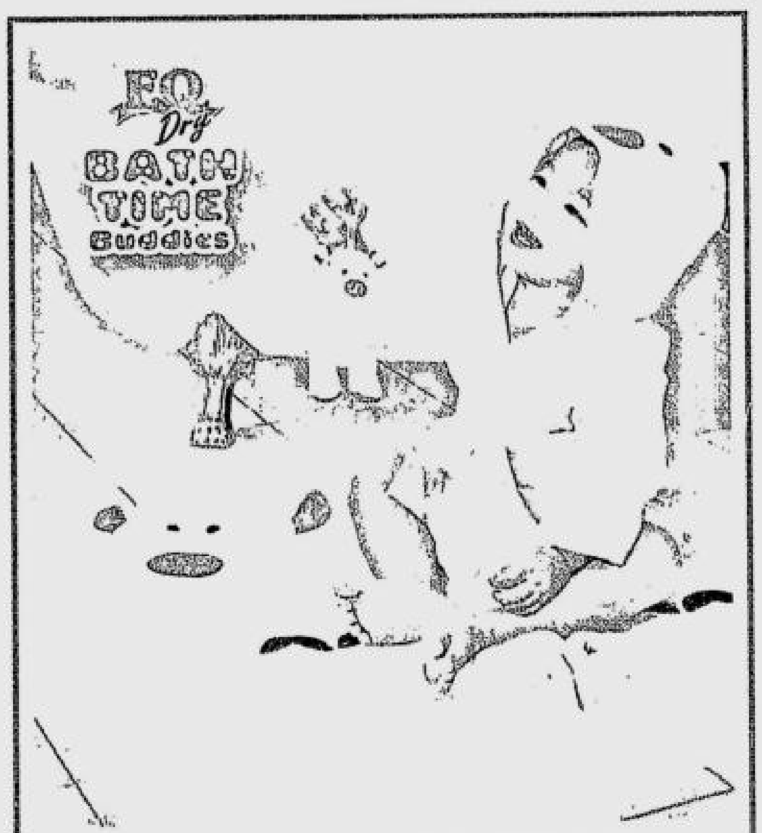
The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein, to annul or cancel the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, impose additional terms and conditions and accept the proposal most advantageous to the government without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders whatsoever.

Approved by:

(Sgd) ARD TOMAS R. ESCAREZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 1, 2007)



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Start collecting all accessories now! Promo period is from April 16 to July 15, 2007 only.

See posters, flyers and print ads or visit www.jsunitrade.com for more details.

Per DTI NCR Permit # 1246, Series of 2007.

ALAXAN HONORS FILIPINO WORKERS

"Araw ng mga Champion"

In celebration of Labor Day, Alaxan Tablet presents "Araw ng mga Champion", a day of recognition for the unique efforts of the "Champion" in every hardworking Filipino.

On April 29, 2007, three (3) exciting events will take place simultaneously in Riverbanks Marikina, Plaza Independencia in Cebu and Rizal Park in Davao. Activities geared not only for the workers but also their families such as free medical missions, raffles, fun and games

shall be held starting 8AM, with evening performances by Christian Bautista and Sarah Geronimo in Manila, Aggressive Audio for Cebu, and Goliat and Guilly for Davao.

The culmination of the event shall be the Parangal sa Manggagawang Pinoy, where Alaxan Tablet shall acknowledge several exemplary Filipino workers. Orlando Susi shall be recognized as being the longest and oldest hand-made shoe maker in Marikina City; Oriental Port and Arrastre Services Corporation (OPASCOR) and Panaghugpong sa mga Mananagat sa Sawsawan (PGMS) shall be awarded by being the forefronts of Cebu tourism and fishing trade; and Davao City Water District Employees Association and Transmisions Mindanao shall be honored by being the backbone of Mindanao water and transport industry. Awardees shall be given Plaques of Appreciation and cash prizes by Alaxan Tablet.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Strong Friend (2), Sunday Street (5), Manapla (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Full of Fury (4), Wind Song (2), Top The All (5), Alfa Romeo (1)
Race 3—(Tri)—Getting Personal (5), You Got It All (1), Powerhead (4)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Style (2), Rivendel (1), Sweet Luvin (4), Jade Express (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Deep (4), Lyanjonik (7), Afternoon Delight (1), Legendary (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Empire Lady (9), Morning Nell (8), Happy Again (6), El Cid (5), Celestial (1)
Race 7—(Tri)—Bull Rider (5), Puede Ba (1) Newstar Lady (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Princess Adama (3), Seniority (6), Red Hot Water (7), Holy King (2)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Bombshell Beauty (4), Words of Joy (2), Selfmade (1), Sheza Winner (6)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Hurry Prince (8), Silver Cho Cho (6), Kawilwili (7), Kalashnikov (4)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Done Gelay (4), May Rabbonnie (5), Prince Larry (6)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Smile (1), Lightning Strike (2), Yao Man (6), Mas Que Nada (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Daddy's Girl (7), Lovely Tara/Fair Urduja (2), Carlito's Way (5), Da Mik Mok (3), Dynamic Jason (4), Aya's Dream (1)

5 fights sizzle in Fistorama

FIVE AMATEUR FIGHTS are on tap starting at 10 a.m. in Fistorama on RPN-9. Aired every Tuesday, Fistorama's amateur bouts are part of the PCSO Amateur Boxing Championship which was held recently at the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Fistorama is supported by PCSO, Tanduay, Hope, and Mapecon.

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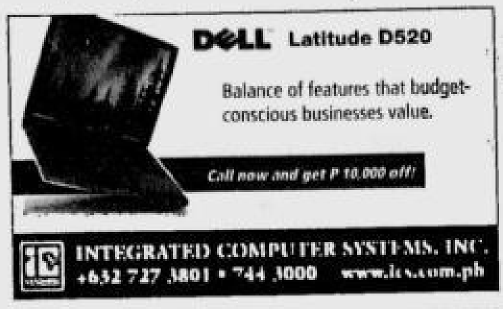
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GMA 7 finally going public in July

Shares to be offered at ₱7-₱8.50 each

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

GMA NETWORK INC., THE COUNTRY'S SECOND biggest television station, is aiming to raise between P6.4 billion and P7.8 billion from a planned offering of shares and Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs) to the public in July.

PDRs are shares that have economic benefits such as cash, stock or property dividends, but have no voting powers. The PDRs are proposed as a tool to generate interest among institutional investors.

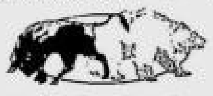
In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), GMA 7 said it planned to offer 91.35 million common shares at between P7 and P8.50 each. This will raise between P639.4 million and P776.4 million.

GMA Holdings Inc., a new corporation organized in the Philippines to issue PDRs, will sell 822.12 million PDRs.

Of the total PDRs to be offered by GMA Holdings, 91.35 million PDRs will be offered on behalf of GMA 7 and 730.77 million shares on behalf of existing shareholders, namely FLG Management and Development Corp. and Gozon Development Corp. of GMA 7 chair Felipe Gozon; Group Management and Development Corp. of the Duavit family, and M.A. Jimenez Enterprises and Television International

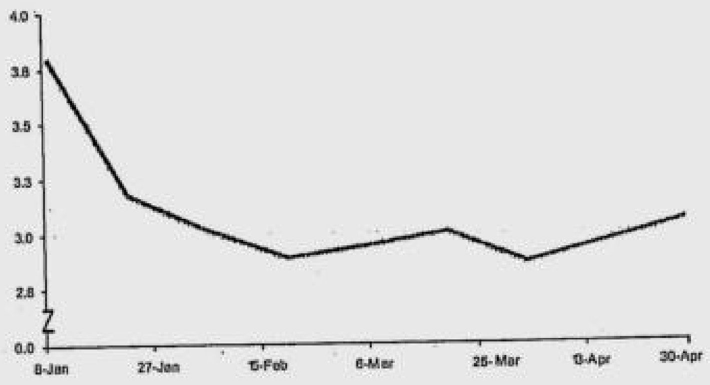
GMA 7/B2

IN THIS ISSUE



▨ **Bloated** budget deficit /B2
▨ **SSS woos** overseas workers to join state fund /L24

91-DAY T-BILLS
January to April 2007



Rate of 91-day T-bills inches up to 3.044%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY yesterday rejected all bids for the 364-day treasury bills as banks sought a higher risk premium following the government's breaching of its budget deficit target for the first quarter and the resignation of National Treasurer Omar Cruz.

Had the Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids, the rate for the one-year securities would have jumped by 68.2 basis points to 4.502 percent from a month ago.

Yesterday's auction of the 364-day bills followed the decision of the Treasury to cancel the offering of these instruments in the previous auctions due to a lack of demand.

Outgoing National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the market's weak appetite for the 364-day bills was confirmed yesterday when his office resumed the issuance of these debt instruments.

There was more interest in the 91- and the 182-day bills, although these instruments also fetched higher rates.

The 91-day bills, whose rate is used as a benchmark by banks in pricing loans, fetched 3.044 percent, up 9.2 basis points from the auction two weeks ago.

The rate for the 182-day bills hit 3.721 percent, rising by 16.1 basis points from the rate two weeks ago.

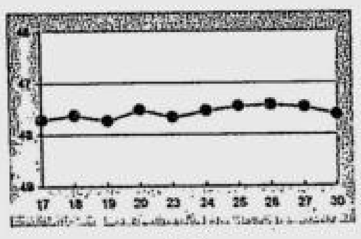
Tenders for the 182-day bills were the highest at P6.2 billion, more than three times higher than the P2 billion on offer. The Treasury accepted all P2 billion worth of tenders.

Bids for the 91-day bills reached P5.08 billion. The auction committee accepted P1.4 billion worth of bids, raising more than its original offering of P1 billion.

Cruz said the increase in the short-term interest rates on government securities was a natural consequence of the fiscal performance in the first quarter.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



APRIL

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

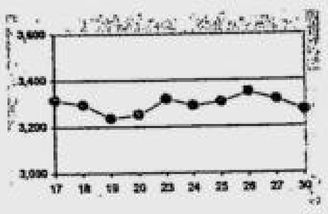
₱ 47.61 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2007

¥ 119.36 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 27, 2007

GOLD: $680.50-681.00
per ounce Hong Kong, April 30, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
APRIL



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks down 1.44%

SHARE PRICES closed 1.44-percent lower yesterday in a muted session with investors choosing to take profits on a lack of fresh leads, dealers said.

They said investors were also exercising caution ahead of the May 14 mid-term elections, which many see as a referendum on President Arroyo's government.

The composite index dropped 47.65 points to close at the day's low of 3,270.73 off a high of 3,318.38.

Losers beat gainers 68 to 35, with 56 stocks unchanged. A total of 4.5 billion shares worth P3.4 billion were traded.

"There is always that uncertainty before and after every election, so we can expect the market to move sideways in the coming weeks and even shortly after that, a consolidation will take place," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities.

Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities noted that the average value turnover in recent weeks has been declining, although there has been no heavy selling.

"The daily value turnover average is going down, partly because investors are not buying aggressively as the elections are very close," he said. "Investors are either unwinding positions, while others are reducing their holdings portfolio."

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was among the day's losers, slipping P15 to P2,540 while rival Globe Telecom Inc. P5 to P1,230.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. shed P15 to P600, while property arm Ayala Land dropped 75 centavos to P17.50. *AFP*

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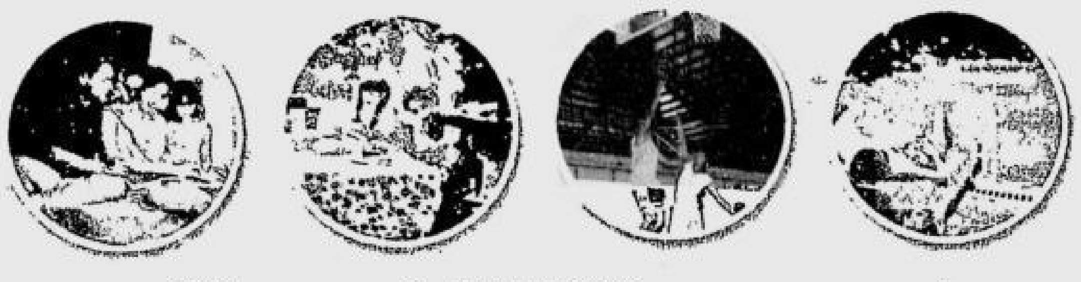

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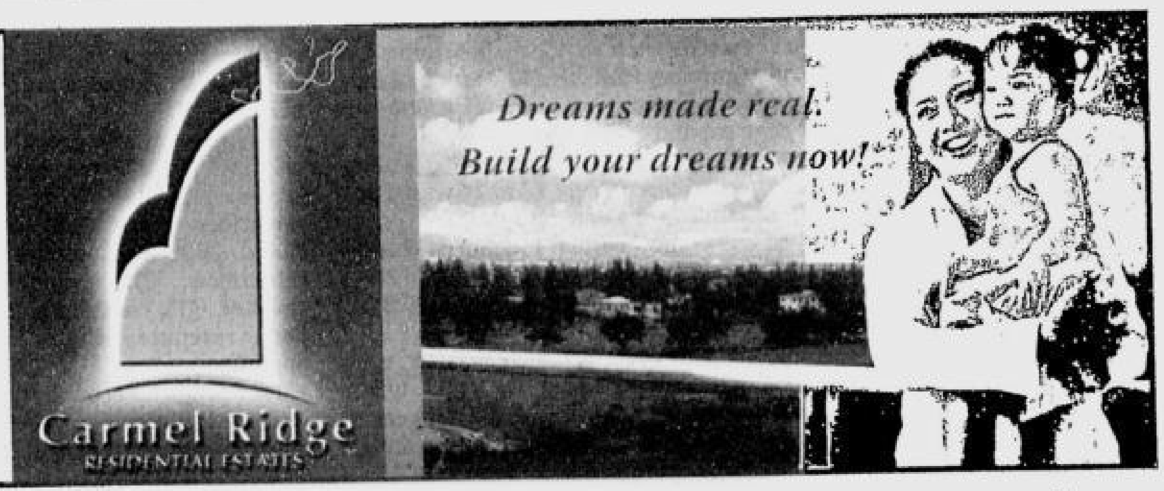


PSE says net profit in 2006 jumped 94% to ₱232M

IPOs, add'l listings boosted revenues to ₱565M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) said its net income rose 93.9 percent to P232.3 million in 2006 from P119.8 million in 2005.

Operating revenues surged by 47.3 percent to P565.1 million from P383.6 million due to higher revenues from listing, membership and service fees, PSE said in a disclosure.

Listing fees from four initial public offerings last year and 48 additional listings grew 53 percent to P244.3 million last year from P159.25 million in 2005.

Listing-related income contributed 43.3 percent of total operating income.

Membership fees, which consisted of 13 percent of operating revenues, also rose 37 percent.

The increase was due to higher transaction fees and processing fees for block sales.

Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, a wholly owned clearing house subsidiary of PSE, also helped boost revenues as SCCP fees increased by 159.6 percent to P102.4 million last year from P39.4 million in 2005.

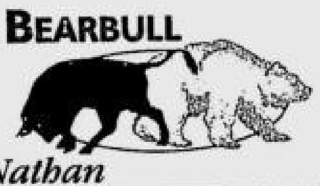
SCCP contributed 18.15 percent to total operating revenues. The increase in SCCP income was buoyed by the expansion in total market trades which grew to P572.8 billion in 2006 from P384.4 billion in 2005. Total trade value was based on gross trades, including block transactions and cross trades.

Also an increase in clearing fees since May 2005 also helped boost SCCP income.

Meantime, operating expenses rose 12.17 percent to P272.5 million last year from P242.98 million in 2005 due to higher manpower cost after a reorganization program that entailed special separation packages; repairs and maintenance; occupancy cost; membership development expenses, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Bloated budget deficit

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

A MAN HAD BEEN SLIPPING IN AND out of a coma for several months yet his wife stayed by his bedside every single day. When he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he said, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were always by my side. When I got shot, you were with me night and day. When we lost the house, you gave me the will to carry on. Now that my health has started failing, you are always with me. Now that I think about it, I think you bring me bad luck."

My doctor said I should resume doing exercises. We have a gym but the instructor also doubles as a lifeguard by the swimming pool. As he prefers to ogle the bikini babes (I don't blame him), he is never in the gym. Not knowing where to start, I raised a 10-lb bag of potatoes 10 times with my left hand. Then I repeated it with my right hand and finally, after a brief rest, with both hands simultaneously. Tomorrow, I will put potatoes in the bag.

My wife, having already broken the bicycle and flattened the huge rubber ball by laying on it, decided to lift weights. We now have a 500-lb weight embedded 8 inches in the ceiling and nobody knows how to get it out.

At 77, I still chase women but only downhill.

* * *

I almost did not write today seeing that the whole planet is observing BEARBULL DAY, known in some backward countries as Labor Day. But as there is an INQUIRER, I thought I should contribute, even though it is difficult being forced to write while wearing full body armor. (Editor's instructions to all journalists.)

In mid-week, after more than 200 years, the DOW finally broke the 13,000 barrier. On Friday, US time, it was announced that the 1st quarter GDP growth has dropped to 1.3 percent, half the previous quarter, and the slowest in 4 years. Inflation has also risen from 1.8 percent to 2.2 percent, the dollar has hit a new low and is now used for playing Monopoly.

This news pushed the index to its highest level ever, so don't ever try to figure out the American market because it is impossible. Analysts had downgraded company earnings to such an extent that almost 70 percent of the 230 results announced beat their estimates and this accounts for the strength of the market. By the end of next week, nearly all the results will be out and the market will probably lose its momentum.

Both Houses have made it clear to President Bush that they want to quit Iraq early next year but the President is not interested in the wishes of the people and he has threatened to veto a bill to pull out by next January. His obstinacy opens the door to Hilary Clinton as next president and a resounding defeat for Republicans at the next election. Although Hilary is something of a cold fish, compared to him, she is hilarious. If she has any expenses, she can put them on her Bill.

The Chinese economy has accelerated from 10.4 percent to 11.1 percent and while this is great news for commodities, there is a danger that it might get out of hand. I expect further interest rate increases and a revaluation of the yuan in order to prevent the United States from imposing tariffs on Chinese imports. It has just been announced the government has ordered all Chinese banks to deposit 11 percent of their deposits to reserves. This takes a large amount of money out of circulation thereby reducing the excessive money supply.

Japan is disappointing and after appearing to have broken out of 16 years of stagnation, industrial output is declining again and further rate increases are unlikely. Japanese companies are doing well in terms of net profit but only because the yen is so weak.

Philippine exports to the United States and Japan have softened but this has been made up by higher exports to China and Hong Kong. National Treasurer OMAR CRUZ resigned after the government announced the largest monthly budget deficit in many years. This was due to the government advancing its expenditure in January and February because there is a 45-day restraint period ahead of the election. Expenditure on infrastructure needs to be done in the dry season. Gary TEVES promised that the year's target would be met and the market did not react immediately. On Thursday, the risk factor published daily in my newsletter reached its maximum of 100, indicating it was time to sell. Since then, the PHISIX has slipped nearly 80 points in 2 days and will probably fall further this week.

PHILNARE was a huge success, being oversubscribed 12 times without foreign participation. But there were a lot of strange things going on. One of my small clients obtained the names and TIN numbers of 10 members of her house and got 60,000 shares. An even more enterprising soul canvassed her street and went to BDO with a suitcase containing 100 forms. She was allotted 600,000 shares. Obviously, BDO will make further IPO's this year but they must lighten up their allocation system.

Mines were good and ATLAS, a chart breakout at P10, rose to P18.25 before correcting to P17.50. GEO went ex-rights on Friday and after opening at P1.74, closed at P1.84 yesterday. Both companies stand to gain from the huge Chinese demand for nickel. OMICO signed up with IVANHOE but since this has been anticipated all year, it had no effect on the price. Anglo-American has signed a contract with Manila Mining, which has obtained an exploration permit. Two to three years of exploration will be needed before Anglo commits itself fully to the copper-gold project but I expect the area to be viable. APC Mining also obtained an exploration permit for nickel in PALAWAN. Apex Mining produced an encouraging report on MASARA but there was little interest.

This election violence is doing the tourism industry no good at all and the United Kingdom has asked tourists not to visit the Philippines unless absolutely essential. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Davao oil firm sets IPO in June

DAVAO-BASED OIL COMPANY Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. is aiming to raise between P176 million and P328 million from its public offer of 36.25 million shares in June.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Phoenix set its offer price at between P6.08 and P11.30 each.

Of the 36.25 million shares comprising the public offer, 29 million are new shares (primary offer) and 7.25 million are shares owned by Udenna Corp., the second biggest shareholder of the company.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. was tapped as the issue manager and underwriter.

The public float will represent 25 percent of the company's issued and outstanding capital.

Phoenix has tentatively set the offer period on June 13-19 and its listing date on June 27 pending approvals by the country's regulators.

The company said funds raised through the public offer are earmarked for capital expenditures and to increase its working capital. The company plans to establish terminal operations in other locations, expand its dealership network and its services as well as the necessary logistical requirements to support its activities.

Phoenix is a company registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) with total assets of P500 million. Its biggest shareholder at 68 percent is Phoenix Petroleum Holdings Inc. owned by the Uy family.

"Since we are a BOI-registered company, it is our mandate to list in three years. Now is the right time to list given the market conditions, and to broaden our shareholder base and raise some funds for our expansion projects," Phoenix president Dennis Uy earlier said.

Phoenix opened its first gas station in June 2005 in Davao del Sur. Today, it has more than 20 retail service stations. By end-2007, 30 more will be added, bringing the total "Phoenix Petroleum" retail service stations to 50, the company had said in a statement.

Phoenix is a Davao-based corporation and a member of the Udenna Group of Companies—a low-profile conglomerate with various business interests in the island and some in Manila. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

GMA 7 finally going public in July

From page B1

Corp. of the Jimenez group.

GMA 7 is currently owned and controlled by three major shareholder blocs—the Duavit family (with 35 percent), the Jimenezes (35 percent) and the Gozon group (30 percent).

The underlying GMA 7 common shares in the PDR issue will be owned by GMA Holdings.

Of the total PDR issue, 182.69 million will be offered in the Philippines and 639.42 million will comprise the international offer.

GMA 7 hopes to raise for itself roughly P1.55 billion in gross proceeds from its local share offer and primary PDR offer. The money will be used to improve existing facilities and expand operations.

The domestic offer period is tentatively set on July 17 to 24 with a possible listing date on July 24.

GMA 7 earlier announced consolidated revenues of P11 billion in 2006, 12-percent higher than the P9.8 billion in 2005.

However, net income after taxes dipped 2 percent to P1.97 billion from P2 billion due to the full-year effect of a mandated increase in the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent starting November 2005.

The network's international channel, GMA Pinoy TV, posted substantial growth propelled by its expanding subscriber base. GMA Pinoy TV closed 2006 with almost 126,000 subscribers. The company's free channel, QTV, contributed P202 million to revenues in its first full-year of operation.

Production costs on the other hand increased 29 percent to P3.7 billion due to the programming of QTV.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 30, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANK					
17.5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	13	13	12.75	13	17,500
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	65.5	65.5	64.5	64.5	1,159,000
65.5	30.5	Banco de Oro Universal Bank	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	277,700
935	624	China Banking Corp.	855	855	855	855	1,100
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	300
119	60	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	106	106	104	105	37,010
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	2,960,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	63.5	63.5	62.5	62.5	2,685,700
55	30.5	Philippine National Bank	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	17,000
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	6,200
39.57	12.17	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	4,377,800
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	77.5	78	77.5	78	182,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
7.7	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1	130,000
0.8	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
5	4.2	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.5	4.55	4.2	4.3	53,291,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	540	540	535	535	3,000
2,250	1,895	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	480
1.8	1.02	iVantage Corp.	1.68	1.74	1.66	1.72	5,124,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.37	0.16	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	280,000
62.5	41	First Gen Corp.	57.5	57.5	56.5	57	490,400
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76	77	76	76.5	1,038,600
12.75	6.5	Manila Water Company Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	8,639,600
81	12.75	Manila Electric Company A	70	72.5	70	72	660,300
82	18.5	Manila Electric Company B	71	73	70.5	72.5	4,327,900
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	10,066,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	14,604,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	350,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	215,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.14	2.2	2.1	2.14	460,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	14,000
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52	49.5	49.5	556,300
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	169,000
4.05	2.36	Roxas Holdings	2.38	2.38	2.36	2.36	20,000
67.5	61	San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	103,400
84	68	San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	72.5	73	280,800
24	15.75	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	3,686,900
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.17	1.07	EEI Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	270,000
9.1	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	220,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.76	2,104,000
		CHEMICALS					
5.9	1.26	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	1,342,000
0.95	0.185	Metro Alliance Hold'gs and Eqts. A	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
0.99	0.25	Metro Alliance Hold'gs and Eqts. B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.43	0.06	Picop Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	3,850,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.35	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	584,000
0.0925	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.07	0.07	5,600,000
0.59	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	13,140,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	136,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,700,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9.1	2,217,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	768,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
2.12	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.04	2.08	9,103,000
680	327.5	Ayala Corp.	615	615	595	600	167,180
13.75	7.58	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	140,000
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	298,000
4.45	0.96	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.7	17,665,000
7.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	481,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,659,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	158,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	265,200
2	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.7	2	1.7	2	170,000
2.5	0.6	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. A	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
2.5	1	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B	2.42	2.5	2.42	2.5	130,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	1,000,000
12.5	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	10.5	10.75	1,273,900
3.6	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3,842,000
5.4	1.04	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	25,000
0.48	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	4,230,000
1.7	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	71,000
407.5	205	SM Investments Corp.	357.5	357.5	355	357.5	110,500
0.51	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	19,100,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	120,000
1.34	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	610,000
0.41	0.05	Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	350,000
0.24	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,600,000
0.55	0.15	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	420,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	85,000
0.58	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	450,000
18.5	10.25	Ayala Land Inc.	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.5	8,253,800
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.32	1,726,000
3.1	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	2.42	2.6	2.34	2.34	915,000
4.5	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	325,000
0.54	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	40,000
0.54	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	3,730,000
1.94	0.64	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	500,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.76	23,170,000
0.165	0.027	Ever Gotesco Ress and Hold'gs Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	5,400,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.74	1,650,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.76	1.78	21,390,000
0.33	0.05	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	26,400,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,000,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	2,570,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	850,000
3.95	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.25	3.25	33,886,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.55	318,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	2,400,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18.25	4,613,000
5.6	1.48	SM Development Corp.	4.9	5.6	4.9	5.4	6,219,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.25	11.5	5,781,600
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.64	1,020,000
0.27	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,290,000
		MEDIA					
29	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	204,300
1.2	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	5,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.06	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.68	5,119,000
1,445	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,235	1,235	1,230	1,230	31,060
2,820	1,700	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,550	2,555	2,535	2,540	227,160
7.9	3	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,437,000
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,200,000
6.8	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	6.2	6.8	6	6.1	1,343,000
7.1	2	IPVG Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	375,000
0.075	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	7,300,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. A	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,000,000
2.9	1.36	Ionics Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	20,000
0.0675	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	4,100,000
0.06	0.025	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.047	43,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	50,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
5.6	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.4	612,000
32	11.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	1,348,300
1.7	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.36	1.7	1.36	1.7	1,046,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	1,945,000
0.45	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	2,000,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.87	0.87	2,810,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	36,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
4.35	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	917,000
16	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.5	14.75	14.75	3,915,500
30	9.5	Paxys Inc.	27.5	29	27.5	29	620,000
50	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	50	12,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	50,700,000
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	372,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	217,000
18.5	5.6	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	2,870,400
14.75	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10,300
1.91	0.0602	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.82	1.84	12,147,000
0.42	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	39,570,000
0.47	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	14,670,000
0.035	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.032	0.035	0.032	0.033	1,609,300,000
0.039	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.037	888,800,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	863,200,000
5.9	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	10,238,000
32	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	34,600
0.87	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	70,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,551,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.41	4,020,000
0.017	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	20,900,000
14.81	6.31	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	143,000
0.0182	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	391,700,000

COMPILED BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

April 30, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.732332	1.000000	47.5100
Japan	Yen	0.006128	0.008368	0.3976
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463640	1.998600	94.9535
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093638	0.127863	6.0748
Switzerland	Franc	0.607695	0.829807	39.4241
Canada	Dollar	0.656388	0.896298	42.5831
Singapore	Dollar	0.483069	0.659631	31.3391
Australia	Dollar	0.607594	0.829669	39.4176
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.942630	2.652661	126.0279
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195278	0.266652	12.6686
Brunei	Dollar	0.481481	0.657462	31.2360
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000110	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.022327	0.030488	1.4485
UAE	Dirham	0.199394	0.272272	12.9356
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.365500	64.8749
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.001076	0.0511
China	Yuan**	0.094942	0.129643	6.1593
ArgentinaPeso	0.237001	0.323625	15.3754	
Brazil	REAL	0.360417	0.492150	23.3820
Denmark	Kroner	0.134235	0.183298	8.7085
India	Rupee	0.017954	0.024516	1.1648
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214133	0.292398	13.8918
Mexico	New Peso	0.067062	0.091573	4.3506
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541906	0.739973	35.1561
Norway	Kroner	0.123096	0.168087	7.9858
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012078	0.016493	0.7836
South Africa	Rand	0.104485	0.142674	6.7784
Sweden	Kroner	0.109564	0.149609	7.1079
Syria	Pound	0.014108	0.019264	0.9152
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022016	0.030063	1.4283
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000341	0.000466	0.0221

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—April 27, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of April 27, 2007

Cebu eyed as regional tourism hub

Consistent growth in Asean tourism industry expected

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN CEBU IS POSITIONING the province as a regional hub, as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations anticipates an uptrend in visitor arrivals amid efforts toward economic and cultural integration.

Mila C. Espina, chair of the Cebu Business Month (CBM) Tourism 2007, cited Asean data that projected consistent growth in the regional tourism industry. This was based on positive trends in visitor arrivals in member-countries over the last three years.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

This year's edition of the annual CBM, spearheaded by the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlights the holding of a conference dubbed "Tour Cebu: CBM Asean Congress" will be held in June.

Espina said preliminary figures released during the 10th Meeting of Asean Tourism Ministers showed that the region attracted 56 million visitors in 2006, up by 8 percent from year ago.

About half of last year's visitors are from within the region, making Asean itself as the principal source of visitors and driving double-digit growths for Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

As for the local industry, he said tourism investors would leverage on the improved perception on the Philippines, following Cebu's successful hosting of the 12th Asean Summit and other meetings of leaders in East Asia last December and January.

Francis O. Monera, CCCI president, said regional tourism industry stakeholders were supporting the branding initiatives that promote Asean tourism integration and strengthen Asean's positioning as a single destination.

"CCCI wants to contribute to this through the tourism congress," Monera said.

The conference would tackle issues that affect the growth of the regional tourism industry through discussions on branding, marketing, success stories and aviation policies.

Security Bank OKs dividend

SECURITY BANK CORP'S BOARD HAS approved the declaration of cash dividend of P1 per share payable upon the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

This will consist of a regular cash dividend of 25 centavos and a special cash dividend of 75 centavos.

The regular dividend is at par with that declared in the first semester of 2006 while the special cash dividend represents a 50-percent increase from the previous level.

A sustained increase in the bank's earnings enabled the bank to increase its dividends payment.

Security Bank posted a profit of P1.9 billion in 2006, up 65 percent from year-ago.

In a statement, Security Bank chief financial officer Carlos M. Borromeo said: "Our sustained organic growth over the last three years coupled with our excellent asset quality have strengthened the bank's capital base and distinguished us as one of the few players that need not raise additional capital to meet the revised capital standards contemplated in Basel II."

PSE transfer opens doors for host city

TAGUIG CITY MAYOR FREDDIE R. TIÑGA yesterday said he was optimistic that the transfer of the Philippine Stock Exchange to Fort Bonifacio would open up more opportunities for the city.

"We are excited that the trading community will finally have a single home here in Taguig. Although our current trading system is already unified, the physical merger gives our trading partners a sense of oneness and security," Tiñga said.

"This opens up more doors for Taguig which has now become a key investment city. But more than the opportunities that it offers our city, we believe this move will eventually benefit our country's economy," Tiñga said.

Last week, shareholders of the PSE approved the transfer of a unified bourse to a modern headquarters office in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig by the first quarter of 2010.

Currently, PSE operates two trading floors in Metro Manila—one in Ayala Avenue in Makati City and the other in Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

The unified PSE will be housed on a 5,000-sq. m. property near the HSBC building in Fort Bonifacio. The property is part of a donation agreement that the PSE and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. signed in 1994.

Threat or consequence

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE OF THIS THING called "hot money," the peso is still gaining against the dollar, and the stock market is slowly coming back to life.

Let us even forget for the moment that, in this age of global financial markets, hot money comes and hot money goes, just like that.

The thing is, according to Bear Stearns Singapore managing director John Stuermer, the Bangko Sentral also needs to "sterilize" hot money. It's as if, that kind of money is dirty money that you have to "sterilize" it!

Stuermer, who presented his 2007 financial forecast for Asia during the ACI Philippines (aka, Forex Association) convention in Boracay, sees a threat from it.

Truth is, while hot money does us something good, it also has consequences, i.e., dollars are exchanged for pesos, in effect bringing up the level of money supply.

That, according to Stuermer, poses a major inflationary threat.

Stuermer is the same economist who, last year, came out with a bold report that Gloriaetta would survive the political storm from the "Hello, Garci" tapes. This newspaper reported that prediction in a banner story.

Now, Stuermer is issuing a warning on inflation.

And so, the question to bankers is this: How will the Bangko Sentral soften the effect of hot money on prices?

You can be sure that the Bangko Sentral has a plan. Whether it will work or not is another matter altogether.

The policy-making body of the central bank is the Monetary Board. In this board, this cute administration made quite a few appointments as payment for political debts.

I mean, just how brilliant can we expect our monetary policies to be?

* * *

Dealing with the side effects of hot money may force the Bangko Sentral to adopt measures that, in the long run, may slow down economic growth.

Thus, this cute administration may not meet its macro targets, particularly the GDP growth rate.

That's a problem for Gloriaetta's economic team, particularly for its captain ball Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Gloriaetta, according to whispers in business circles, really listens to Teves. Somebody from Land Bank.

Proof of that is Malacañang's recent appointment of the personal choice of Teves to head the Bureau of Treasury.

But who does Teves listen to, say, for an explanation on the exchange rate movements?

That, according to talk in banking, has got to be somebody big at the DBP.

* * *

An "unofficial" military report is going around the business sector that a certain "RD" is doing some, *er*, "collection work"—for and on behalf of certain DOF officials—at the Bureau of Customs.

The "unofficial" report did not say who the DOF officials are.

* * *

The Hong Kong-based Palmerston Hotels & Resorts, which operates the highly exclusive Tower Club at the Equitable building on Paseo de Roxas in Makati, is jumping on the tourism bandwagon by building a multimillion-dollar resort hotel in Boracay.

The hotel will be located beside the Fairways and Bluewaters time-share golf resort of Fil-Estate.

Arthur Lopez, Palmerston regional director for Asia-Pacific, expects to finish the new high-end hotel in three years.

* * *

No matter what they say about its becoming too commercialized, the world-famous Boracay island continues to attract both domestic and foreign tourists by the droves.

Last weekend, the island hosted a number of big events, such as the ACI Convention, the Century Tuna "bikini body" competition, the bossa nova concert of upcoming recording artist Sitti Navarro, a dragon boat festival (with foreign participants), and an outdoor cooking competition (with culinary genius Margarita Forres as one of the judges).

Thus, the local airline Asian Spirit, which has almost cornered the Boracay run, must be doing well, right?

Not so fast, Caiphas, because the founder of the small airline, which is a cooperative of the airline's pilots, is said to have sold out to the owner of Cats, which is that Mercedes Benz dealership on Edsa.

Why did the pilots' co-op decide to sell its holdings in Asian Spirit?

The biggest threat to a fledgling airline like Asian Spirit is, of course, the open-skies policy of this administration.

A well-funded lobby group just fed Malacañang with a draft executive order that would allow foreign airlines "unlimited" access between the Clark and the Subic airports.

What do you know: That simply means domestic flights, period. Today Clark and Subic! Tomorrow Boracay!

* * *

Oops…the political ads put out by Pasig City Councilor Roberto "Bobby" Eusebio, who is running for mayor of the city, did not cost anywhere near the figure that we cited last Thursday.

Actually, we received several calls from some friends at the Pasig City hall, such as Councilor Atoy Co (the former PBA superstar) and Lolet Austria, who works at the office of the mayor.

They said that Bobby's television ads, which came out on ABS-CBN Channel 2, which in turn charges the highest ad rates today, were paid for by his relatives and friends, and they ran for only a week.

According to Bobby's mother—former Pasig City Mayor Yolly Eusebio who, in turn, is the wife of current Pasig City Mayor Enteng Eusebio, the councilor is rather careful about his election spending.

Bobby Eusebio, as you know, is up against Rep. Robert "Dudot" Jaworski Jr., the son of PBA superstar and former Senator Robert Jaworski, who also happens to be married to a movie star who, in turn, belongs to the politically powerful Cojuangco clan.

Dudot originally served as councilor of San Juan, which is controlled by the Estrada family. He moved to Pasig only a few years ago, and he immediately became its congressman. Who knows? He may move to Makati someday. Right, Jojo?

Nido seeks strategic partner

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN FIRM NIDO PETROLEUM LTD. is in search of a strategic partner for the development of two petroleum blocks in Northwest Palawan.

In a presentation posted on the company's official website, Nido said it was hoping to find a strategic partner before 2008, to allow it to execute a "statistically significant exploration program."

Nido will be gathering more seismic data on Service Contracts 54 and 58 to back up some "optimistic" data culled from these areas last year.

Its $3.5-million 3D seismic data gathering over SC 54, which was conducted from November 2006 to January 2007, yielded results favorable enough to be followed up by further surveys.

Some 640 sq. km. of 3D seismic data had been acquired so far, Nido said, with interpretation now being conducted in Perth, Australia by a team composed of SC 54 shareholders Nido and Yilgarn Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd.

SC 54, located in offshore Northwest Palawan, covers an area spanning 540,000 ha.

Apart from SC 54, Nido said it was also set to start gathering 3D seismic data on SC 58, also in offshore Northwest Palawan, by September.

Digitel trims losses

By Riza T. Olchondra

DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. (Digitel) managed to trim its net loss to P963 million in 2006 from P1.5 billion in 2005 despite higher costs.

Parent firm JG Summit Holdings attributed this to "strict money management."

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the holding firm said Digitel's service revenue declined by 8 percent to P7.6 billion from P8.3 billion.

"Fixed line revenue suffered from lower international receipts due to the strengthening of the peso and the overall decline of inbound traffic. Mobile revenue also dropped as the company deliberately focused more on the improvement of network coverage and quality," JG Summit said.

Fixed line voice services remained the largest revenue contributor for Digitel but mobile services are catching up. In 2006, fixed line services provided 58.3 percent of revenue, down from 60.2 percent in 2005 and 73.2 percent in 2004. In contrast, the contribution of mobile services grew to 36.9 percent in 2006 from 35.6 percent in 2005 and 21.9 percent in 2004.

The Internet-based business remained the smallest contributor at 4.8 percent of the total revenue for 2006, almost the same as 4.2 percent in 2005 and 4.9 percent in 2004.

JG Summit Holdings said Digitel had tightly controlled its operating and network-related spending to offset high financing costs.

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Reports to : Director, Personnel Staffing
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- Communicate effectively with other corporate offices and with the various Business units to facilitate client and/or hiring manager submittals.
- Interview, screen and conduct pre-submittal interviews and background/reference checks of candidates to ensure proper alignment with job requirements (including qualifications, availability, compensation, etc.)
- Negotiate and close compensation agreements, including logistics, fringe benefits, etc.
- Assist in the mobilization, deployment planning and logistics if and when necessary
- Must be capable of and willing to travel locally and abroad when needed.

Qualifications:
A. Education
- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources / Psychology / Business Administration or related fields.

B. Experience
- Previous experience in personnel recruitment, locally and abroad.
- At least five (5) years experience of staffing, human resource or recruitment experience in a dynamic and diverse environment – preferably in the Oil, Gas, and Energy market sector (OG&E)
- Experience with web-based applicant tracking systems as well as experience in recruiting through the use of job boards, networking and advanced sourcing techniques.
- Previous experience with POEA (licensing, compliance, etc.)

C. Professional Skills, Knowledge and Personal Qualities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills in English and local languages
- Proven recruitment track record in the placement of personnel
- Understanding of fundamental employment compensation terms and processes in identified local/global regions
- Proficient in basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Self-motivated and able to work independently with limited local supervision
- Physically fit

Title : **Junior Accountant**
- College degree in Accountancy, Financial Accounting or Managerial Accounting
- At least three (3) years experience in accounting including compliance reporting to government agencies.
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Title : **Telemarketer**
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Duty Free Phil. Management

(PDI- April 22 & May 1, 2007)

"I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

"NANAY"
PACITA SOLANO VDA. DE CASTAÑOS

(June 10, 1912 – April 29, 2007)

Our Nanay peacefully and gracefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday, April 29, 2007 shortly after receiving the last Sacraments. Her bereaved family and husband - **Melecio** (†); children - **Robert** and **Celita**, **Rafael** and **Letty**, **Inday** and **Orly Salientes**, **Maty** (†), **Bads** and **Diwi**, **Josephine** and **Danny Giron**, **Oscar** and **Norma** and **Tabby**, grandchildren: **Triccie** and **Albert**, **Katrina** and **Caloy**, **Gladys**, **Abigail**, **Armel** and **Boots**, **Beebom** (†), **Ton-Ton** and **Maryanne**, **Olso** and **Rit-Rit**, **Minggot** and **Matt**, **Leah**, **Eleanor**, **Michael**, **Tricia**, **Pia**, **Trina**, **Jessica** and **Jeric** and **Kaye** & great-grandchildren: **Bea** and **Coby**, **Marco**, **Ram**, **Koreen**, **Enzo**, **Cal**, **Migo**, **Paige** and **Anya**; and other dear relatives and friends request you to pray for her eternal peace.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City beginning April 30, 2007 until May 01, 2007 and will be cremated Wednesday, 02 May 2007 at 6:00 a.m.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Affectionately Remembering
The First Death Anniversary of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

(Died on May 1, 2006)

Founder and Chairman Emeritus of United Laboratories, Inc. and
"Mapagkalingang Ama ng Mga Empleyado"

The Unilab Finance & Treasury Early Retirees
(Batch Nov. 15, 2006 and May 31, 2007)
and their families request the pious readers to join them in prayers for him.

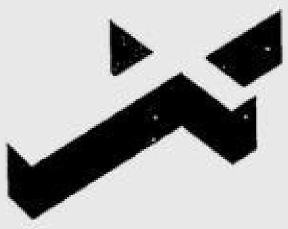
Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Maria Buenaventura Chua Go

widow of **Gavino Go**

who peacefully joined our Lord on April 20, 2007, wish to convey our deepest appreciation to all of you, our relatives and friends, who spent precious time with us, sent flowers and offered masses and prayers and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our days of bereavement. May God bless you all.



"Even though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil. For you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

— Psalm 23:03

"Kindness and faithful love pursue me everyday of my life. I make my home in the house of the Lord for all the days to come."

— Psalm 23:6

"My Soul finds rest in God alone; My salvation comes from Him; He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."
Psalm 62:1

JOSEFA CONCEPCION SALAÑO

Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Passed away to meet her Creator and joined her loving husband on April 28, 2007 at the age of 89.

JOSEFA (Epang) loving wife of **FELICISIMO (Felicing) SALAÑO, SR.** (†) was born in Pasig, Rizal. She is survived by her three children **JESUSA (Chuchi) MORAL**, **FELICISIMO (Leo Boy) SALAÑO, JR.**, and **FLORIANO (Roy) SALAÑO**; children-in-law: **JULIO**, **ELVIRA** and **BELEN**; grandchildren: **JHOANNA**, **JEANNE**, **JULIUS**, **JOJO**, **JOY MARIE**, **LEO BOY**, **ANNETTE** and **ANGELA**; great-grandchildren: **ANN**, **KARL**, **GABRIELLE**, **J.R.**, and **PHILIPPE**. She will be surely missed by us all and we ask everyone to please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Josefa lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels at 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City (Felicidad Chapel).

Interment will be on Thursday, May 3, 2007, 9:30 a.m. at Heritage Memorial Park.

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Call Center seminar set

THE CONTACT CENTER Association of the Philippines (CCAP) is launching an intermediate-level seminar dubbed "CCAP Call Center 101: Operations Management" to be held this May 3, 2007 at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel. The seminar fee is P3000, which includes seminar materials, lunch, snacks, and certificate of attendance. Interested parties may call the CCAP Secretariat at tel. nos. 886-4421, 889-7763, and 886-4407, or e-mail admin@mediafocus.com.ph or call Malou Babia-Macatangay of DL Media Focus International Inc. at Tel: (632) 886-4421, (632) 889-7763, Telefax: (632) 886-4407 or E-mail: malou.mediafocus@yahoo.com

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More Classifieds Ads

Commission on Elections	Page A14-15
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National Food Authority	Page A23
Duty Free Philippines	Page B2
Moody International Phils.	Page B2

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot supply and installation of sixty-nine (69) sets of steel doors including door hardwares & accessories for the various AHU/Machine Rooms at the Five-Storey, Multi-Storey, Cafetorium and EDPC Buildings as per BSP scope of works, specifications and drawings
Approved Budget for the Contract	P5,000,000.00
Completion Period	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed from Facilities Management and Engineering Department (FMED) which will be issued within five (5) working days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget of the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	02 May 2007-17 May 2007 (not later than 1:30 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	18 May 2007, 10:30 AM, Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	05 June 2007, 2:00 PM, Room MR2A
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the
5. Post-qualification	) prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing
6. Notice of Award	) Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184) dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI – May 1, 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

DepED
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IV-A CALABARZON
Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Region IV-A through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers, manufacturers and contractors to apply for eligibility and to Bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply & Delivery of School furniture CY 2006
Location : Various Schools in the division offices of Region IV-A
Brief Description : Lot A Elementary Armchairs
Lot B Secondary Armchairs
ABC & Funding source : GOP through the GAA CY 2006 (15% Allocation)
Contract Duration : 120 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Bidding will be considered through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 known as the Government Procurement Act, and is restricted to Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per lot shall be rejected.

The ABC per lot is as follows:

Package	Quantity	Total
Lot A-Elementary	8366	Php 6,526,200.00
Lot B-Secondary	5578	4,350,800.00
	Total ----	10,877,000.00

Hereunder is the schedule of BAC activities:

Advertisement	May 1 – 7, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 1 – 15, 2007
Pre-bid Conference	May 16, 2007
Submission & Opening of Bids	May 28, 2007

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500.00 to the DepEd Region IV-A Cashier.

The DepEd Region IV-A reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO M. ROSARIO**
Chief Administrative Officer
BAC Chairman

(PDI – May 1, 2007)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Animation, where science meets art

THERE'S IS A BOOM OF SPECIAL EFfects in the film industry today. Wildest dreams come to life on the big screen thanks to special effects. Fantasies and mysteries come alive through the creative genius of today's special effects masters.

Now, animation is in the Philippines. Arena Multimedia Animation is being brought to us by MISNet Education. MISNet offers courses on various Arena multimedia courses from freehand, graphics, special effects, classical animation, character designing, clay modeling, 2-D and 3-D animation, morphing, warping, walk-through virtual reality, web and convergence, and creating organic and inorganic 3-D models.

Arnold Cruz, president of MISNet Education said, "a career in animation opens a lot of doors to animating for movies, commercials, advertisements and print, and we're here to help people interested to join this industry prepare for a rewarding career in animation."

MISNet Education's Arena Animation Academy Specialist Program is comprehensive. It's tailor-fit to focus on the art of putting images to life through their graphics suite, interactive multimedia suite, animation suite, advanced animation suite and digital portfolio development suite.

Graduates of this program are in great demand nowadays here and abroad. This program is open to all undergraduates, fine arts, commerce, science and arts students, students with creative minds and students who are into film and animation development.

Arena Multimedia is a pioneer and trendsetter in animation education. With an extensive network that spans across 13 countries and has trained over 175,000 students globally, Arena Multimedia continues to be the most sought-after resource of world-class quality animation graduates.

The centre is also offering courses on various areas like Graphic Designing, Pre and Post Production, AV Editing, Gaming, Animation, Web Designing and Development, Media Publishing, Digital Architecture and Interior Designing.

For further details call MISNet Education at 751-2871 to 75 or visit at Unit 2402 Antel 2000 Corporate Center 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village Makati City 1227 Philippines.

UCPB EXPANDS CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH MSU

UCPB is expanding the UCPB-CIIF Group scholarship program for children of small coconut farmers at the Mindanao State University (MSU) by offering 50 new four-year course scholarship slots for this coming school year and adding two new components to the program: internship and job placement in the bank for the scholars. The program, which is being implemented by the UCPB-CIIF Foundation, currently has 275 scholars in the 10 MSU campuses. Shown formalizing the agreement with a handshake are UCPB president and CEO Jose L. Querubin and MSU president Dr. Ricardo de Leon. Also shown are from left: UCPB-CIIF Foundation program head Neury Chan, UCPB assistant vice president for human resources Rosario Dayrit, UCPB director and head of the bank's corporate social responsibility committee Rose Casiguran, UCPB-CIIF Foundation president Edgardo Amistad, MSU assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs Dr. Malawi Panambulan, MSU vice president for academic affairs Dr. Nasroden Guro, MSU vice president for planning and development professor Abdullah Alonto, MSU director for legal services lawyer Baratucal Caudang, and MSU presidential management staff director Lomala Imam.

Clark-Tarlac tollway to open in August-BCDA

THE CLARK TO TARLAC PORTION OF THE Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) will open to vehicular traffic by August this year.

BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya announced this recently as he cited the Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel Joint Venture, which is building the 44-km stretch (referred to as Package 1) of the SCTEx, for sticking to its work schedule.

Abaya made the announcement after receiving assurances from HTN top officials that, most likely, they would be able meet their August deadline.

HTN project manager Kunio Kimata and general manager Makoto Yoshida reaffirmed their commitment to finish their job on time during the BCDA board directors meeting held April 18. The reaffirmation belied an earlier news report that they were asking for a grace period.

Tokyo-based Tetsuro Marui, Hazama general manager for International Division accompanied by Kimata and Yoshida who called on Abaya at the BCDA headquarters in Global City, Makati City April 13 reported that they could complete Package 1 in August this year.

"The assurances given by the HTN officials came to us as a whiff of fresh air," Abaya said in a statement.

The 50.4-km Package 1 is being built by the Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (KOJM) Joint Venture.

According to Abaya, both contractors were "fully aware of all the factors they would deal with in road construction, and they are expected to honor their respective covenants with us."

"The HTN consortium, with its expressed confidence that it will beat the construction deadline, is convincing proof that, with enough political will and managerial resolve, any contractor worth his salt can deliver on its promise," the BCDA head added.

He commended the HTN leaders for "applying themselves with single-minded dedication to complete the job, after taking stock of issues and constraints that ordinarily are part of everyday challenges in the construction business."

"Our people have been expecting the expressway from Clark to Tarlac to open before Christmas, and we are happy to announce that the Japanese contractor tasked to complete the project said it can meet its deadline, four months before Christmas," Abaya said.

A parade of retail stars at the 10th OFR awards

THE 10TH OUTSTANDING Filipino Retailers and Shopping Center of the Year (OFR) Awards Night, the "Oscars" of the Philippine retail industry, drew retaildom's Who's Who to gather for an evening to honor Filipino retail excellence.

The annual OFR aims to encourage local homegrown retailers to adopt world-class standards by recognizing those who have successfully steered their business into globally competitive enterprises. The award recognizes Filipino retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

Organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), the 10th OFR awards held on Feb. 19 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel awarded 14 world-class retailers bringing to 93 the total number of OFR awardees since it began in 1997.

The highlight of the evening was the 2nd PRA President's Award given to Zobel de Ayala, as "Pillar of Philippine Retail Development" for his contribution in elevating the Philippine retail industry to world-class standards through his globally acclaimed shopping centers. No less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and DTI Secretary Peter Favila presented the award to Zobel.

The evening's entertainment was provided by Bench model and Southeast Asia's heartthrob Christian Bautista.

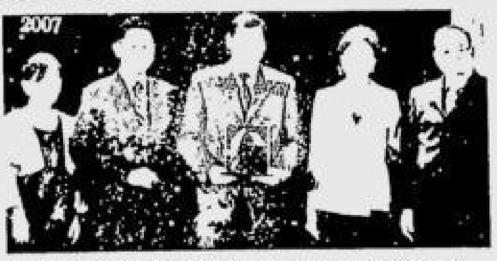
The 10th OFR winners were Toy Kingdom (Category Killer), Oxygen (Medium -Apparel), Celine (Medium - Shoes & Bags), Tyler (Small - Apparel), CMG and Fino (Small - Shoes & Bags), Goldilocks (Food Retailer - Large), Teriyaki Boy (Food Retailer - Medium), Kids of Bayo (Most Promising Retailer), HBC (Specialty Retailer - Large), The Travel Club (Specialty Retailer - Medium), Gateway Mall (Shopping Center of the Year), Nepo Mall - Dagupan (Regional Shopping Center of the Year-Northern Luzon) and WalterMart -Plaridel Bulacan (Regional Shopping Center of the Year-Central Luzon).

HBC and Celine were elevated to this year's Hall of Fame for winning the award for two consecutive years.

To date, the search has elevated 12 retail brands/retailers to the OFR Hall of Fame - Shoemart, Bench, Islands Souvenirs, Cinderella, Penshoppe, National Bookstore, Mercury Drug, Bayo, Video City, Folded & Hung, Celine and HBC.

The 10th OFR is sponsored by SM, Ayala Center, Globe Telecom, Innove Communications, HBC, All Visuals and Lights Systems, Imavision, and Bench.

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL BAGS GOLD QUILL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



Hot on the heels of its recent triumph in the 42nd Anvil Award, Sun Life Financial-Philippines took center stage once again when it copped the 2007 Gold Quill award for Best Marketing Communication Campaign. SLFP's entry entitled '111 Campaign' won in the Division 7 - Marketing Communication categories. Under this batch are programs designed to help products and services or places and targeted at an external audience. Division 7, in turn, belongs to the Communication Management category which puts emphasis on the full range of communication planning and management skills including research, planning, strategy, implementation, measurement and evaluation. Shown is Sun Life Financial SVP for marketing Raoul Littaua who received the 2007 Gold Quill award for Best Marketing Communication Campaign for '111'. He is flanked (from left) by IABC board of director Roni Tapia-Merk, SLF director for corporate communications and marketing services Joee Guilas, business development officer Mylene Daez-Lopa and regional director for IABC Asia Pacific Bish Mukherjee.

SME PORTAL WINS AN ANVIL

SME.com.ph, the country's lead portal for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), bagged an Award of Merit in the 42nd Anvil Awards. SME.com.ph was given recognition as an effective tool of Public Relations under the Electronic Interactive Media category. A product of PDBSME Solutions Inc, a joint venture between Plantersbank, the lead bank for SMEs and the World Bank's International Finance Corp (IFC), SME.com.ph opens up the world wide web to Philippine-based SMEs and provides much-needed web-based solutions and SME resources to help entrepreneurs manage their business better, expand to new markets and be globally competitive. Shown in the photo are (front left) 42nd Anvil Awards chair Butch Raquel, PRSP president Milen de Quiros, PDBSME Solutions Inc treasurer Maria Bernadette T. Ratcliffe, Anvil Awards chairman of the board of judges Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno, and PDBSME Solutions Inc general manager Adonis C. Yap.

METROBANK IS RETIREMENT FUND TRUSTEE OF PPI

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank), the country's largest bank in assets, was recently appointed as trustee for Planters Products, Inc's (PPI) retirement fund. PPI is a renowned agri-chemical company involved in selling and distributing crop protection chemicals and agricultural products across the country. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Metrobank vice president Josephine Cervero, PPI president and CEO Ramon Santos, Metrobank executive vice president Josefina Sulit, and PPI vice president for finance Lewellyn Fortuna. Also present as witnesses are (standing, from left) Metrobank account officers Vier Tajonera and Patricia Unarce, PPI human resources and organizational development manager Richard Miclat, Metrobank business development officer Virna Liza Alamar, and PPI corporate and legal affairs manager lawyer John Paolo Calleja.

P&G, CAPRI BAGS EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR OLAY CAMPAIGN

Procter & Gamble Philippines and Campaigns PR Inc, the public relations and events unit of Campaigns & Grey, recently bagged a Gold Quill Award for Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) for its outstanding marketing communication campaign on the Philippine Launch of Olay. Accepting the award are P&G country PR manager Jamie Endaya (2nd from right) and CaPRI managing director Richard Arboleda (2nd from left). The Gold Quill is an annual awards which recognizes best practices and the highest level of achievement by communicators in thought leadership, technical skills and sustainable solutions in their successful programs. Also in photo are (from left) IABC Philippines director Veronica Tapia-Merk, P&G brand PR manager Anna Legarda, CaPRI associate PR director Arlene Calaguian-Alano, P&G trade marketing manager Vanessa Castro, and IABC executive board member and Asia Pacific director Bish Mukherjee.

CARLO'S PIZZA AT BF HOMES IN PARAÑAQUE

CARLO'S PIZZA

Now you can savor the great taste of authentic Italian pizza at Aguirre Ave, BF Homes in Parañaque. There are 17 varieties available for all to enjoy-from everybody's favorite Capriccioso which has almost everything on it-pepperoni, salameti, ham, sausage, bacon and vegetable, to Sardinia (sardines with black olives) and Quattro Formagi (blue cheese, parmesan, cheddar and mozzarella) for those with adventurous palates. Also available are pasta, buffalo wings, soups and salads, plus a lot more. Other Carlo's Pizza outlets are at SM City and Camp John Hay which are both in Baguio, Tagaytay and soon at SM Mall of Asia. Shown are Carlo's Pizza-BF Homes, Parañaque branch franchisees Danny and Cristy Valerio.

Superior Styling: Tricks does it

THE EVERYDAY DEMANDS OF YOUR URban lifestyle also demand different hairstyles. For a major presentation to the company's top honchos or your thesis defense, you need a clean, conservative style. For an alfresco lunch date with your girlfriend, a playful, slightly tousled look is best. After work or classes, a drink with the boys demands a modern mohawk.

When it comes to hairstyling, versatility definitely is an important factor. Imagine being able to keep up by restyling your hair instantly in anyway and anytime you want. Impossibility becomes reality in Tricks Styling Clay.

Initially targeted for professional use, the Tricks Styling Clay represents the newest trend in cutting edge styling products. It lets you explore different hair styling possibilities —from slick, polished looks to scattered, "out-of-bed" styles—with its hard, strong hold.

What separates Tricks Styling Clay from the rest is its remoldability. It allows you to switch from hairstyle to hairstyle anytime you please due to its soft, pasty consistency that does not harden as other waxes do. This means you can recreate styles instantly without adding more product or re-activating it with water!

The Matte Finish and Natural Shine variants are perfect for those who consider the "wet look" outdated and want natural-looking hair texture. These variants are available in 50-gram hexagonal, bolt-and-screw silver jars—undeniably eye-catching, undeniably masculine.

Another advantage of the Tricks Styling Clay is its affordable price tag compared to other imported brands.

SUPER BOWL OPENS AT SM SAN FERNANDO

Super Bowl of China, the leader in Chinese casual dining, has recently opened its newest branch in SM San Fernando, Pampanga. The addition of the restaurant's first store outside Metro Manila brings to 13 the total number of Super Bowl outlets in the country. Shown in photo during the opening rites are (from left) Pampanga Vice Governor Concon Laos; Super Bowl's Richmond Yang and Robert Epes; Pampanga Governor Mark Lapid and Super Bowl's Luigi Vera.

TELETECH, LYCEUM OF BATANGAS PARTNERSHIP

TeleTech has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Lyceum University of Batangas for the conduct of call center-related training courses. Shown handing over the agreement are (seated) Maulik Parekh, TeleTech vice president and general manager and Dr. Flora Javier, Lyceum vice president of academic affairs. Looking on are TeleTech and Lyceum officers who witnessed the signing ceremony at the Lyceum University of Batangas campus.

UP Alpha Phi Beta raffle draw reset to July 20

THE DRAW OF THE "ALAY PANG-Iskolar ng Bayan" raffle of the UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity Chancery that was originally set on April 24 has been moved to July 20, Friday, at 7 p.m. at the Quezon Hall of the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. The untimely resetting of the draw is due to the hectic activities of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity Chancery, and its local chapters involving the coming national and local elections. Tickets are still on sale for the July 20 draw. All ticket holders are invited to attend the draw. For details, call Ahne Celestino or Anna Peleo at 448-6445 or 376-5504, or e-mail chancery_sec@yahoo.com.ph .

BUSINESS

SSS woos overseas workers to join state fund

OFWs expected to easily contribute ₱10B a year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM wants overseas Filipino workers to become members of the state pension fund.

The SSS noted that contributions to the state pension fund would increase by P10 billion a year if a million OFWs were to become SSS members, with each making an annual contribution of P10,000.

There are an estimated 8 million Filipinos working abroad, most of whom are not protected by social security.

"(Being an SSS member) is a hedging mechanism, which would allow OFWs to save, in part, their hard-earned pay, and which they can recover as pension in the future," SSS President Corazon de la Paz said in a statement.

De la Paz said that the state pension fund, which services employees from the private sector, is already studying ways on how to tap OFWs to become members.

The SSS hopes OFWs will volunteer, rather than be compelled, to become members of the fund, she said.

The statement was made after Malacañang called on the SSS to look at ways on how OFWs can be given social protection.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier expressed her support for the plan to include all land and sea-based workers abroad in the SSS roll.

"We want...OFWs (to join) our fold so they can likewise enjoy the same benefits being given to SSS members based in the Philippines, particularly when they retire," De la Paz said. "It is pitiful seeing many OFWs end up with nothing when they are old and back in the country after working so hard abroad in their younger days."

The SSS chief said her office would cooperate with the Philippine' Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and other related government agencies to persuade OFWs to become SSS members.

According to De la Paz, one possibility is to ask the POEA to issue a regulation that will ask OFWs to register with the SSS before leaving the Philippines.

De la Paz said an alternative plan was to urge Congress to legislate a bill that would enable OFWs to become members of the SSS.

De la Paz said Congress could pass a bill similar to Republic Act 7655, enacted in 1993, which provided SSS coverage for house helpers.

Under that law, all domestic helpers aged 60 and below, and receiving a monthly pay of at least P1,000, must be registered with the SSS. Compulsory coverage .takes effect on the day the helper is engaged by a household.

"Whatever form it would take, our objective is to make OFWs SSS members for their future protection," De la Paz says.

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RP firms eye windfall in Japanese IT market growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES firms are eyeing a windfall on the projected growth of up to 8 percent this year of Japan's outsourced software development market through the sector's biggest trade show in Tokyo this month.

Trade Assistant.Secretary Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said local firms would take advantage of Japan's rising labor cost and shortage in manpower. Data indicate the industry would grow by at least 5 percent in 2007.

Reyes said that after many years of bringing their software development needs to destinations like China and India, Japanese companies are currently looking for other countries that can provide more cost efficient and value-added services.

Philippine software companies—their adaptability and ability to meet deadlines—continue to impress the Japanese, according to Reyes, who is also executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

"The country's software development services includes a whole package of satisfactory projects, on-time delivery, technical support and confidentiality," she said.

Reyes said local firms are relying on their proven track record to win over Japanese companies when they take part in the Software Development Expo and Conference (Sodec) 2007 from May 16 to 18.

She said local firms' participation in last year's Sodec resulted in 113 trade inquiries, generating sales of at least $1.6 million.

Local companies joining Sodec 2007 include those engaged in applications software development, web-based systems, image management and medical applications, as well as contact center solutions, and digital banking.

ODPS resumed; Napocor claims ample fuel supply

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER BEING SUSPENDED FOR MORE THAN a week, the state-run National Power Corp. has resumed selling power via its one-day power sales (ODPS) program, claiming that the suspension has nothing to do with a fuel shortage.

In a statement issued yesterday, Napocor said the suspension of the ODPS starting April 18 was "required," as the National Transmission Corp. declared a "red alert condition" that day due to a power supply shortfall.

According to Napocor, since capacity sold through the program was that which was considered "idle," the program could be suspended any time system requirements were not met.

"This means that we have to first satisfy and meet the requirements of the power system for electricity, especially that of our customers who are under contract with us," Napocor said. "The system's requirement is at least the demand forecast for the day plus the required reserve."

"Idle capacity" is determined only after all system requirements are addressed. This capacity is then sold to bulk power users at lower rates on specific times via the ODPS scheme.

In a letter distributed to ODPS customers more than a week ago, Napocor vice president for sales and services Oscar Lorico said ODPS transactions would be suspended from midnight of April 19 until April 27 due to a power supply shortfall declared on April 18.

But Napocor said it was not a fuel supply shortage that triggered the suspension of the program. Fuel constraints, as referred to in the letter, did not exactly mean a shortage in supply, the state firm said.

"The 'constraint' could have been brought on by other factors," Napocor said. "For example, the tripping of the Limay (270-MW combined-cycle) plant in Bataan, was fuel-related, but was not due to any shortage."

The ODPS program suspension was lifted on April 28.

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LIFESTYLE

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MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2**

Making the Big C less fearsome

By Linda B. Bolido

IF MORE AND MORE PEOPLE WITH cancer are feeling less and less like victims, perhaps it is because there is a great deal of confidence and a growing sense of optimism among experts who care for them that the disease is not as invincible as it was once thought to be.

That is particularly true for the team running the Cancer Institute of the St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City.

Much of that confidence and optimism arise, of course, from having at their disposal state-of-the-art technology and facilities that make cancer therapy that much safer, shorter and convenient for the patient, with fewer side effects.

The arsenal of weapons against the dreaded disease has also made SLMC a leader in this field in the country, if not in the region.

The 3-D Conformal Radiation Therapy and Intensity-modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), for instance, considered the most advanced cancer-fighting technology to date, allows "precise external beam radiotherapy treatments."

Focused delivery

Much like a sniper that is able to narrow his/her focus on the target, the machine allows greater accuracy in delivering radiation to the diseased tissue and less exposure of the surrounding parts.

As Dr. Miriam Joy C. Calaguas, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, pointed out, the potential of existing therapies to destroy healthy tissues had always been a major concern in cancer treatment.

With the new 3D image the computer-controlled IMRT had to work with, "The higher dose delivered is precise and exact and conforms to the shape of the tumor," Calaguas said.

The new equipment also allows what experts call "respiratory gating." Instead of providing simply a general shape and location of the tumor, the new-generation machine defines the contour of the diseased tissue, clearly delineating borders between healthy and damaged parts.

As the tumor also tends to move as the patient breathes, the machine tracks its movement so that when the radiation dose is delivered it is at the point where the growth is at that moment not where it was a few seconds before, resulting in less damage to surrounding healthy tissues.

The more precise and more tolerable therapies like that provided by IMRT have led to fewer patients discontinuing their treatment because of side effects.

Greater expertise

But more than the high-technology equipment, perhaps what buoys the spirits of new cancer patients is the fact that the expertise has also grown not just in handling the sophisticated machines but, more importantly perhaps, in coping with the fears and the needs—medically and emotionally—of patients.

At the institute, cancer is not simply a matter for the surgeon or the radiation expert to handle. It has become a truly team effort.

The multidisciplinary approach to the management of the disease has the institute staff working closely with experts in women's, men's and children's diseases; disorders of the nervous and digestive systems, etc.

Research is also continuous not just to keep abreast of scientific and technological developments but also to develop therapies more adapted to the unique requirements of Filipino patients.

The institute has set up various study groups that maintain breast diseases databank and do studies on the different forms of cancer that SLMC has to deal with.

In addition, nutritionists, specialists in pain medicine, rehabilitation, psychology and other fields are also involved as it is now increasingly recognized that cancer is not simply a matter of curing the physiological abnormality, but also of helping the patient cope with the emotional and psychological trauma and with the necessary lifestyle adjustments.

Better understanding

Surgeon Edgardo R. Cortez, institute director, said they had a strong support division that informed and educated patients and the public in general on cancer to generate a better understanding of the still dreaded disease.

Both Cortez and Calaguas stressed that a patient's attitude was critical to the success of the therapy. "In any disease," Cortez said, "a positive mental attitude [is crucial]." He said, while all treatment options had a downside, how the patient dealt with their effects would influence their efficacy.

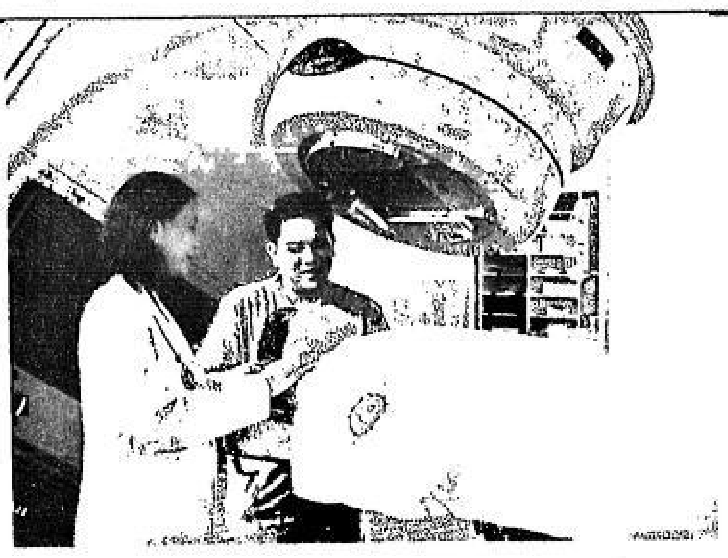
"My personal observation," Calaguas said, "was that a patient with a more positive response to the situation [had a higher chance of success of surviving cancer]."

Cortez pointed out that cancer as a disease was becoming a fact of life in societies where the population was aging, the result of better medical care and nutrition. "Cancer is a disease of the elderly," he said. A more Westernized lifestyle, including diet that many Filipinos have adopted, has also increased the prevalence of the disease.

The Philippines' higher incidence of breast cancer, for instance, compared to other Asian countries, is suspected to be due to the country's being more Westernized than its neighbors.

But the rising figures on cancer incidence are also a source of optimism for the experts. Cortez said, especially for breast cancer, "people are more aware, more concerned" so they

MAKING/ C3



WHILE the high-tech machine may seem intimidating, a patient is reassured by the happy faces around him or her.

More upbeat cancer specialists are infecting their patients with their optimism

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Information Gateway

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DITAS Posadas with Fe Dixon, Becky Garcia and her husband Dr. Georg Sarakinis, Joanne and Gunther Matschuck

JUN and Nene Leonor, and Jullie Yap Daza

MOVIE star Maria Isabel Lopez, Crispina Belen and lawyer Mike Toledo

BABY Isaac

NARDS Belen

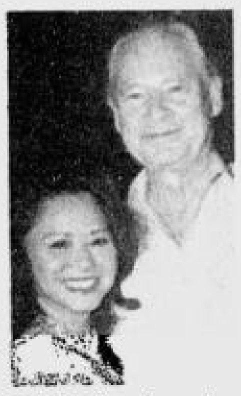
Frankly, my dear, it is time to celebrate

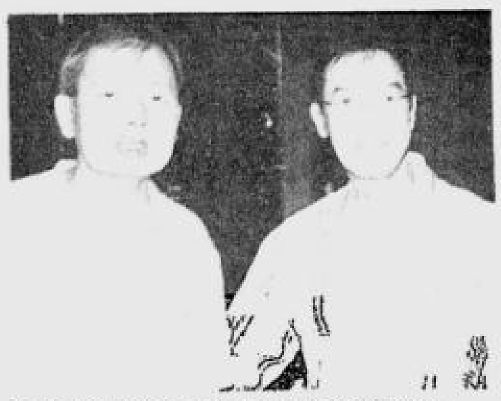
VICKY Castañeda and Frank Cancelloni

BERNARDO Benedicto with Carmina Pavia, Jessica Guevara and Roxanne Silverio

SANDRO and Dhang Gnanojean

TATIANA Knasrinkova of the Russian Embassy with Arlene Jacobo and Ambassador Mario Schuff


BETH Victoria and Theo Arnold


TAIPAN Peter Coyiuto and Joey Moreno

MANUEL "Meckoy" Quiogue, hot shot president and COO of GMA marketing and production, with entrepreneur Babylyn Decena, and Tess Castro

AMBASSADOR Delia Albert with Gigi Santiago-Lara and Virginia Lane

PACO and Christine (Jacob) Sandejas

LANI Mercado with Rhea Santos, and Ricky Reyes

GMA executives Butch Raquel and Wilma Galvante

MAN of the hour, popular celebrant Frank Evaristo, with his children Jun Jun, Amy, Carol, Lorraine, and Carlo Evaristo; grandchildren Anton and Arsee, and Speaker Jose de Venecia

"HEY, I'M 65 AND IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE," said the admired civic leader and businessman **Frank Evaristo**.

And celebrate he did, *palanggas*, at the cool poolside of the Manansala Building in Rockwell and tons of invitees showed up to honor their friend.

Frank's bright children, **Jun**, **Caroline**, **Amy**, **Carlo** and **Lorraine**, organized the event, pulling out all the stops to make sure it was an unforgettable evening for their beloved Dad, dahlings.

Rose petals floated on the water of the seventh floor poolside surrounded with muted lights. **Vince Lahorra's** cool jazz band played sentimental favorites as guests enjoyed the breathtaking view of Makati below.

Frank's four grandchildren (**Anton**, **Arsee**, **Angel** and **Allie**) were also *tres visible* cheering the honoree.

"They are the main reason I survived the many trials and tribulations in life," a wistful Frank said before the party got underway. And before you could bat an eyelash, Frank was busy-busy welcoming the namedroppables who breezed in from government; the diplomatic, business, civic, and social circles; and the media including *mi amiga* **Bambi Harper**, ace photographer **Alex Van Hagen**, **Johnny Litton**, **Jullie Yap Daza**; and **Glen Gale**, plus tons and tons of Cosmo *Manille*'s hottest personas.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

President Macapagal-Arroyo, though unable to attend because of a previous engagement, sent her best wishes and a gift.

Speaker **Jose de Venecia** led an impromptu toast to the celebrator, saying, "Frank has spent most of his life assisting the less-fortunate, such as out-of-school youths, especially in his current position as president of the Alay Lakad Foundation. He truly has a heart of gold and I am privileged to have him as a friend."

Naturellement, Frank's brother **Percy** and sister-in-law **Leni** were there, along with cousin **Gilbert** and **Remia Evaristo**.

Even Frank's gangmates in New York City when he was taking his post-graduate studies and working in Manhattan came in full force: **Jun** and **Baby Española** of ACT II, **Larry** and **Tessa Albano**, **Boy** and **Ging Martinez**.

Indeed, it was a most memorable night for an extraordinary man. To Frank, here's to many more birthdays to come!

TV channel for women

If there is one television channel all you delightful modern women will thoroughly enjoy, it's QTV, *palanggas*. The station is dedicated to celebrating the joys of womanhood through various shows that inspire and touch the lives of Filipinas, dahlings.

Manuel "Meckoy" Quiogue, hotshot president and COO of GMA marketing and productions, reported at the launch of the "new QTV" at Mezze Restaurant in Greenbelt, Makati: "QTV has become the third highest rating station in the country and accounted for eight percent of total television ad loads from mega advertisers like Unilever, P&G, Nestlé, J&J, Unilab, Alaska, and telecom giants Globe and Smart."

The awesome cocktail event, dahlings, launched QTV's bold new program lineup and roster of dynamic, articulate, exciting and scintillating program hosts like **Lucy Torres-Gomez**, **Christine Jacob-Sandejas**, **Pia Arcangel**, **Rhea Santos**, **Raymond Gutierrez**, **Lani Mercado**, **Alessandra de Rossi**, **Jay-R**, **Kyla**, and **Grace Lee**.

Adding glamour and style to the launch were fashion icons **Jeanne Goulbourne**, **Lulu Tan Gan**, **Criselda Lontok** and **Inno Sotto**; junior style-setter **Marielle Coronel Santos** of Cinderella with Century Tuna's **Leo Po**; Honorary Consul **Fortune Aleta-Ledesma**; Tesoro Group CEO **Beng Tesoro**; GMA top executives like **Wilma Galvante**, **Gigi Santiago-Lara**, **Butch Raquel**, **Marissa Flores**, **Leo Sanchez** and **Angel Javier**; dance diva **Becky Garcia**; stylish women **Virginia Lane**, **Yolly Ayson** and **Susan Campos**; Shangri-La Plaza marketing director **Marline Dualan**; and partyman **Louie Cruz** of Asian Dragon and Sanuk, plus tons of other glam personas like them, *palanggas*.

Check out QTV — VHF Channel 11, Skycable 24, Destiny 15, Sun 19 and Channel 27 in Cebu and Davao.

ROMANIAN Embassy's Annelize Serban with Basil Ong and Arois Serban

Heritage Month

Flash back, *palanggas*. In 2003, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the Filipino Heritage Festival a much-needed booster shot by issuing Proclamation No. 439 declaring "the month of May of every year as National Heritage Month."

Okay, dahlings, now we go fast forward. One awesome event about to take place this month is the fantastic **Pitoy Moreno** Asean Collections, a fashion show of Philippine ternos showing the Asean influence.

Mark this date, May 18, at the Tent, Fort Bonifacio. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. to be followed immediately by the grand show at 7 p.m. This fashion extravaganza, *palanggas*, is a production of the Filipino Heritage Foundation (FHF) and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, together with the Catholic Women's Club (CWC).

The festival director, *mi amiga* Bambi H, who brokered the partnership said: "I chose the CWC as partner because of its many worthy charities that will stand to benefit from the proceeds of the affair."

CWC president **Tessie Rodrigo** and FHF president **Mita Rufino**, with FHF finance officer **Chichi Salas**, welcomed the joint venture. **Meldy Cojuangco** is the major sponsor.

This fashion show was the one presented by Pitoy M. for the heads of states, who attended the Asean meeting in Cebu City early this year. It will have, take note, *palanggas*, the added attraction of CWC members and other namedroppables as guest models like **Annabelle Adriano**, **Nonie Basilio**, **Connie Garcia**, **Kim Lokin**, **Pitang Tiongson** , **Linabelle Villarica**, **Sandy Poblador**, **Virginia Lane**, **Eileen Gonzales**, **Che Singson**, **Angie Sison**, **Emma Cragun** and **Tess Manganti**.

The hard-working CWC fashion show committee is headed by dedicated charity worker **Nene Leonor** and Philippine Tatler's publisher **Irene Martel Francisco** as chairs, with **Mimi Valerio** and **Myrna Borromeo** as co-chairs.

Be there people. It's a fabulous happening for a great cause, *palanggas*.

ONE of the chairs of the Heritage Fashion Show committee, Nikki Valerio, with Mimi Valerio, CWC president Tessie Rodrigo, Nene Leonor, Myrna Borromeo and Terry Tambunting; (back) Ellie Powell Esteban and Irene Martel Francisco

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INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Mother wants to know what religion to teach her kids

I AM CONFRONTED WITH A QUESTION that I honestly do not want to be asked. In fact, my first impulse was to ignore it.

But I find myself haunted by the question of this young mother about how to raise her two babies "in terms of religion and spirituality."

Here is her thought-provoking letter:

"I am a mother of two toddlers, a 2½-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy. How, do you think, should I bring up my kids in terms of religion and spirituality?

"I read a line from your articles that whenever you see one of your former students, you would apologize to them for teaching them things you don't believe in anymore.

"I, myself, was brought up in a strict Catholic environment. I was very religious then, and very active in church activities. I was a member of different religious organizations and you can say I was the youngest *manang* then at 10-11 years old.

"I still go to church but I have a different point of view now.

"Since my kids are already in that stage where I can teach them the basics of life (which will form a big part of their growing up years), I am kind of unsure how to introduce religion to them, or if I should.

"And how to explain things to them that will not confuse them given the beliefs of the majority that they will surely encounter when they start going to school?"

Personal

I really am at a loss how to answer this question because I believe religion is a very personal thing. Each of us has his/her own belief system and no one should ever impose his/her own religious beliefs on others.

I cannot pretend to know more than this mother or anybody else how best to introduce religion to her children or even if she has to.

But since my opinion is sought, here is what I can say about this very important subject, which I do not expect everybody to agree with.

I think it is good to grow up having a religion, no matter what that might be so that the child will have an anchor or foundation.

But whatever religion she chooses to introduce her children to, she should also teach them to be open to other belief systems that may, at first glance, be different from or contrary to their own.

I do not think it is wrong to belong to one religion (Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or Taoist) provided one does not become fanatical or dogmatic about it.

Ideally, religion should unite all human beings but, instead, it has succeeded only in dividing them. How many millions of lives have been destroyed in the name of religion? Is the world better off today than before Jesus Christ was born over 2000 years ago?

Of course, you will get different answers to this depending on whom you ask. George Bernard Shaw once quipped: "We can't say Christianity has failed, because it has never been tried."

But is this not true of all religions? Followers of every organized religion do not even completely agree on what their founder really taught, nor how to interpret them. So every religion eventually splits into various sects and cults, each claiming to be the true one.

One thing more, no matter in what religion you bring up your child, s/he will eventually form his/her own belief system, just like you did, if your kids are intelligent enough.

They will soon see the logical inconsistencies in their adopted religion's official teachings and will question them either openly or silently.

Respect for others

You have to encourage your children to respect the religious beliefs of other people while maintaining their own beliefs. There is absolutely no point in converting a person from one religion to another because each religion puts one's mind in a box. And converting people is just like jumping from one box to another. You are still in a box, see?

Despite the fact that I have long ago graduated from my school boy mentality about the Christian religion, I still believe in what Jesus taught, as he originally taught them, not the interpretation of the official Church. As you begin to dig deeper into the origins of Christianity, you will begin to discover to your great horror how different the Church teachings are compared to what he originally taught.

With the historic findings of the Gnostic Gospels in 1945 at Nag Hammadi, Upper Egypt, for example, we now have reasonable proof how much of Christ's original teachings were edited out by the Early Church Fathers.

By declaring such lost teachings as heresies, they have succeeded in making people believe theirs is the only true and authentic teachings. That is the situation we find ourselves now in terms of Christianity.

When the American psychic Edgar Cayce, while in a trance, was asked, "Which version of the Bible is the best?" he replied: "The one that you live."

I shall answer this mother's question about religion in the same way. "The best religion you can teach your children is the one that you live."

Time flies with the right watch

PUMA TIME, WATCHES FROM the international sportswear brand, features this year a new design inspired by the voyage through space and sports.

The new collection is divided into two groups.

SportLifestyle has two models called Posh and Temptation. Outstanding, unique and eye-catching, the trendy watches fuse the excitement of sports with the vivacity of fashion.

With bright colors and bold designs and big numbers, the timepieces are works of art that can be worn on the wrist. At the same time, they boast of the excellent craftsmanship and precise timekeeping technology Puma is known for.

The Motorsport line includes the Race, Acceleration and Gear models. They include functions that are useful to professional athletes or anyone who is seriously working out or into sports.

TIMEPIECES inspired by space travel and sports

The watches can keep track of laps and schedules. Unbreakable, water-resistant and with back-lighting, Puma Time's Motorsport models may be worn while playing basketball, swimming, jogging or rock-climbing. They also look good enough to wear to parties or evenings out.

The latest designs of Puma Time are now available at leading watch stores and jewelers.

Also available now is Vintage 77 inspired by Walt "Clyde" Frazier, one of the great players of the American National Basketball Association as a member of the New York Knicks.

Puma paid homage to the former pro-basketball player who became a sports broadcaster with Vintage 77.

The watch is cool, classy, slightly retro-inspired.

Making the Big C . . .

From page C1

seek expert help early which should translate into lower mortality.

He advised people diagnosed with cancer: "Accept that you have the disease and cooperate with the treatment." Cortez said the institute encouraged patients to seek a second or third opinion in or outside the hospital so that they would be in a better position to make informed decisions.

The surgeon said he did not even have any problem with people supplementing their therapy with herbal regimens, "as long as they do not replace their cancer treatment."

But he cautioned that, because many of the preparations had not been subjected to scientific studies, there was the danger their interaction with prescribed cancer treatment would produce negative results.

Both Cortez and Calaguas had the same message for people who were afraid to see their doctor. Cortez reiterated, "Cancer is treatable provided it is diagnosed early."

Even for those who might have left it too late to seek medical attention, Cortez said getting expert help was still recommended because, while the disease might have reached an incurable stage, experts could ease the discomfort, the inconvenience and, most of all, the pain.

Calaguas said: "Maybe before cancer was like a death sentence [but not anymore]. It is no longer a morbid, end stage."

THE NEW O3 SpeedPort was launched by Prince-sponsored players Jessica Agra and Meliza Orteza, flanked by Liza Enciso-Labrador, marketing manager of Sports Resources Inc. (SRI), exclusive distributor of Prince in the Philippines, and SRI president Rod Claudio.

'Speedy' tennis racquet

PRINCE HAS LAUNCHED THE NEW O3 Speedport Racquet that offers extra speed designed to a boost a tennis player's performance.

The new racquet has improved aerodynamics and control due to the refined size, location and shape of the O3's oversized string holes, known as the revolutionary O-ports.

The innovation results in a dramatic increase in racquet speed and performance, allowing players to get their racquets into position, make better ball contact and hit clean and more precise shots.

The increased speed helps raise the level of the game of most players, boasting power and spin while enhancing versatility in shot selection.

Prince introduced the new O3 SpeedPort as 2007's newest and most effective game-enhancing gear in the market. Call 6719765 or 6716660; visit www.princetennis.com.

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Sunscreen SPF 30 with Aloe Vera (P1,650/100-ml bottle)

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- Comes in one size—100 ml

After Sun Soothing Spray with Aloe Vera (P1,650/175-ml bottle)

- Ideal for use after a day in the sun
- Hydrates sun-kissed skin and helps preserve its radiant glow
- Must be sprayed lightly on the skin and allow to dry naturally
- For best results, reapply every two hours
- Comes in one size—175 ml

Your Doctor Knows Best

Antonio H. Villalon MD, FPCP, FPSMO

Question:

I have noted a lump in my breast since three months ago. Is this breast cancer?

Doctor Says…

The human body is made up of different cells that compose tissues, forming organs like the breast. Our normal body cells grow and divide to replace dead or injured cells. Cancer may arise when we have abnormal cells growing in uncontrolled ways. When these happen to the cells in the breast, these may lead to breast cancer.

Breast cancer affects many women, with over one million diagnosed each year worldwide. Almost all breast cancers occur in women but this can also affect men.

The cause of most breast cancer is yet to be identified. Many factors are considered to contribute in the development of breast cancer. The incidence of breast cancer is increased in patients with a family member or relative diagnosed with breast cancer. This increased risk can be passed down to the next generation. Likewise, the incidence of breast cancer appears to be increased in patients with more exposure to estrogen (female sex hormone) such as those with early menstruation, late age of first pregnancy, late menopause and intake of hormone replacement therapy. Dietary factors like increased consumption of animal fats and proteins coupled with decreased intake of fiber are thought to increase the development of breast cancer as well.

The most common presenting symptom of breast cancer is a lump in the breast. Other signs and symptoms include changes in breast shape and size, bleeding from the nipple, ulceration (development of open wounds) in the surrounding breast area, orange peel appearance of the skin or lump in the armpit. It is important to note that not all breast lumps are cancerous. In fact, majority of breast lumps are benign – not capable of spreading to other parts of the body. Most lumps seen in the younger age group are benign and may warrant only close observation. Conversely, in older age group, it is important to determine if the lump is malignant (capable of spreading to other parts of the body).

Your doctor is best to determine if the lump you have is cancerous or not. He will do a complete evaluation by getting a detailed medical history and doing a breast examination. He may also order imaging studies like mammography (x-ray of the breast) or ultrasound and perform tissue biopsy (a small sample of the breast lump is obtained and viewed under the microscope). Please consult your doctor for more information on these procedures.

Treatment of breast cancer will vary depending on the presentation of each patient. Removal of cancer cells through surgery is often done. The lump can be surgically removed (lumpectomy) or the whole breast (mastectomy). Treatment may also include giving medicines that interfere with cancer cell growth (chemotherapy), exposing tumor to radiation (radiation therapy) and giving medicines that block the effects of estrogen, thus stopping or slowing cancer cell growth (hormonal therapy). It is important that the patient and patient's family take partnership with the doctor in the breast care team.

Early detection of breast cancer increases the chances of cure. For proper guidance, evaluation, and management, please consult your doctor.

***Dr. Villalon** is an Internist/Medical Oncologist. He is an active consultant at the Philippine General Hospital. He holds clinics at the Manila Doctors Hospital. Dr. Villalon is also a Professor at the University of the Philippines, College of Medicine.*

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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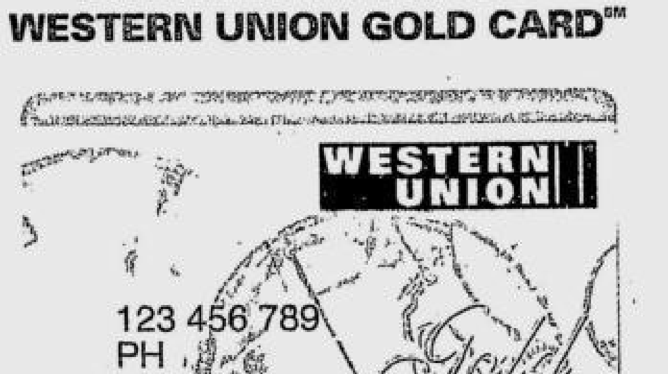

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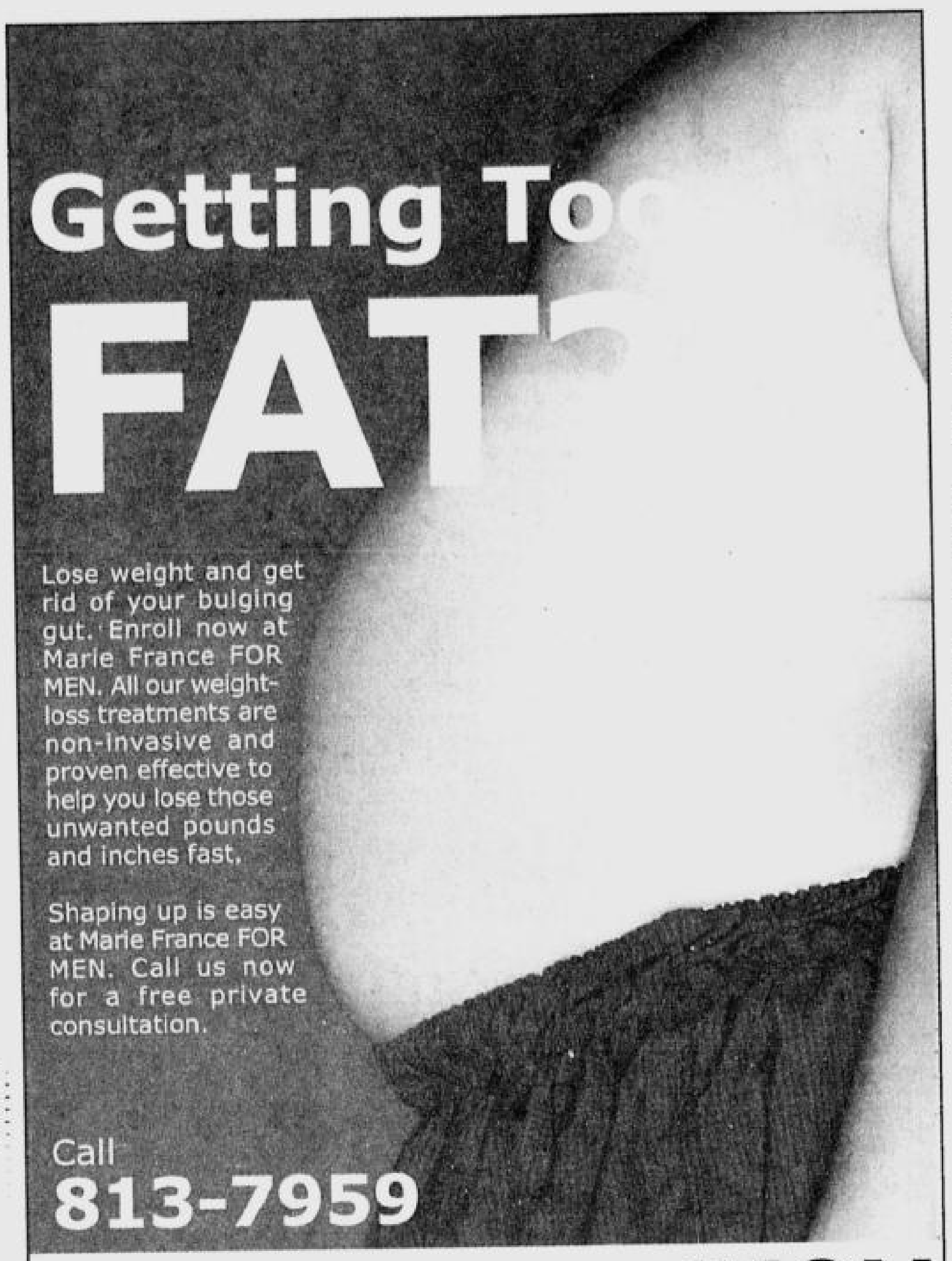

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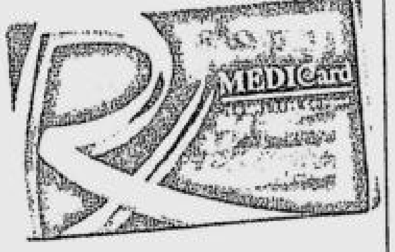
What are Venereal Warts?

Genital warts (condylomata acuminata or venereal warts) are caused by only a few of the many types of Human papilloma virus. Other common types of HPV infections, such as those that cause warts on the hands and soles of the feet, do not cause genital warts. Genital warts are spread by sexual contact with an infected partner and are very contagious. Approximately two-thirds of people who have sexual contact with a partner with genital warts will develop warts, usually within three months of contact. While most HPV types cause no symptoms and go away on their own, some types can cause cervical cancer in women. These types also have been linked to other less common genital cancers— including cancers of the anus, vagina, and vulva (area around the opening of the vagina). In women, the warts occur on the outside and inside of the vagina, on the cervix (the opening to the uterus), or around the anus. In men, genital warts are less common and rarely it can develop in the mouth or throat of a person who had oral sexual contact with an infected person. Genital warts often occur in clusters and can be very tiny or can spread into large masses on genital tissues. Left untreated, genital warts often disappear. In other cases, they eventually may develop a fleshy, small raised growth with a cauliflower-like appearance. Because there is no way to predict whether the warts will grow or disappear, people who suspect that they have genital warts should be examined and treated, if necessary. A doctor usually can diagnose genital warts by direct visual examination. Women with genital warts also should be examined for possible HPV infection of the cervix. The doctor may be able to identify some otherwise invisible changes in the tissue by applying vinegar (acetic acid) to areas of suspected infection. This solution causes infected areas to whiten, which makes them more visible, particularly if a procedure called colposcopy is performed. A Pap smear test also may indicate the possible presence of cervical HPV infection.



This week's answer to our feature question is courtesy of Dr. Desiree Mantapaz-Gonzales. Dra. Des specializes in OB-Gynecology. She earned her medical degree at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, followed by her residency training for a specialization in OB-Gynecology at Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center. MEDICard members may avail for her consultations at Sta. Lucia Healthcare Center every Monday, Thursday and Friday 3-6pm and at Health Connection Medical Clinic every Wednesday 2-4 pm and Saturday 8-10 am.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Wellness is a glass of clean water

THE PROMISE: RADIANT SKIN, improved vitality, better health, brighter eyes and a slimmer you.

And only one thing is required—drink, bathe, cleanse (and exercise if possible) in water.

By adopting a water regimen, you are saying yes to a healthier lifestyle. All it takes is one more glass, each time.

Essentials

Water consists of two atoms hydrogen and one atom oxygen. Human survival is dependent on three essentials—water, air and food.

Question is, do we eat enough (or too much), breathe enough (or right) and drink enough (of the right kind of water)?

Did you know that...

- Dehydration can slow down bodily functions.
- On a very hot day, the body can lose at least 16 glasses of water.
- Insufficient water can cause many symptoms like migraine, dry skin, wrinkles, dizziness, tiredness/fatigue, cellulite, weight gain, constipation, urinary infections, aching joints, irritability/stress.

If you have any of these symptoms, the cure may be just a glassful away. All you need is 2 liters a day or 10-12 glasses of water.

- Water loss results from sweating, talking, breathing, urinating.
- Some beverages—sodas, tea/coffee—deplete water in the body because of their sugar/sodium content. So, for every glass of any of these beverages, take an extra glass of water (if you take four cups of coffee daily, take four more cups of water, in addition to the usual 10-12 glasses each day).
- 75 percent of hunger pangs does not signal an empty tummy, but thirst.
- 75 percent of the human body is water.
- Vital body organs contain water: brain, 75 percent; blood, 92 percent; muscle, 75 percent; bones, 22 percent.
- The moon and sun control the tides in the sea/ocean, therefore they can control the water in our body.
- The sound of running water has a calming effect.

Water regimen

Inner cleansing—Drink enough clean water daily every hour on the hour.

Outer cleansing—Bathe twice a day, morning and evening.

Revitalize—Try to exercise in water (swimming, water sports, etc.).

Energize—Load up on food high in water like fruits and vegetables.

Renew—Splash water on your face or spray it daily.

Relax—Try *watsu* or water shiatsu. It will allow maximum relaxation and destressing.

Mandala Spa (Boracay, tel. (036)2885858 and Chi Spa, Shangri-La Mactan, (032)2310288

Amazing water

Many kinds of water are available in the market today.

Tap water—While often clean given the sanitation process it undergoes, its chlorine content is still high. In some areas it may also not be safe to drink. It is considered neutral water (neither acidic or alkaline).

Mineral water—Mostly sourced from underground springs, it is considered neutral, clean, safe and potable.

Distilled—Clean, safe and potable, probably the popular water of choice. But it is considered acidic. It is the best water when taking medication.

Alkaline—Becoming the choice for health enthusiasts, alkaline water, due to the attention it got from health experts who raised demand, is now more readily available.

Studies have shown that alkaline water can neutralize free radical damage in the body (that leads to disease and rapid aging).

(Note: Free radicals cannot thrive in an alkaline environment.)

PI water—A specially processed water that is also considered highly alkaline.

The need for safe and clean water has grown particularly because of fear of contamination of the water supply system with things like E. coli, hepatitis virus, ameba, etc. due to inadequate infrastructure in developing countries.

Alkaline water, which is now in the market (structured, Kensui, etc.), has been joined by Kangen. Its relatively unknown commercial water processing system dates back to the 1800s and uses the application of Michael Faraday's principle of electrolysis drawn from pioneering Russian, German and Japanese technologists.

Refinements in the system were introduced by the Japanese through Enagic Company Ltd. of Japan. The result is a compact machine as small as a laptop and is directly connected to your faucet within minutes.

It offers three types of alkaline water—8.5, 9 and 9.5. It is the only machine capable of such. Moreover, it can produce two other types of water—acidic water (beauty water) that is good for bathing and cleansing as the eyes and skin are acidic (the body is alkaline) and disinfectant water (chemical-free) that smells of ammonia and can clean pots, pans, floors, tiles and even kill bugs, fleas, lice, etc.

For free demonstration, call 0917-8299658.

Water beauty

Go ahead, get into a tub. If you do not have one, get a big pail of water and indulge your skin.

In a tubful of water, add three tablespoons of virgin coco oil. Throw in five calamansi pieces, halved and without the seeds. Relax. Think happy thoughts.

Affirm

"The waters of life run through me."

Love and light!

(From "Water Detox" by Jane Scrivner)

Happy hour for fitness and health

TAKE TIME OUT FOR HEALTH AND have a happy hour of cocktails, canapes and health talk every Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m.

The Farm at San Benito is inviting those interested in fitness and health to Healthy Lifestyle Wednesdays, a series of free lectures at The Peninsula Manila in Makati, starting tomorrow, May 2.

The holistic health retreat on the foothills of Mt. Malarayat in Batangas wants to bring to the metropolis the same message it has given to other wellness seekers who have visited the farm: There is a natural way to regaining health.

Hippocrates health resort's chief physician Marian Alonzo will draw from her international post-graduate studies and expertise in natural medicine as she talks and answers questions on different topics.

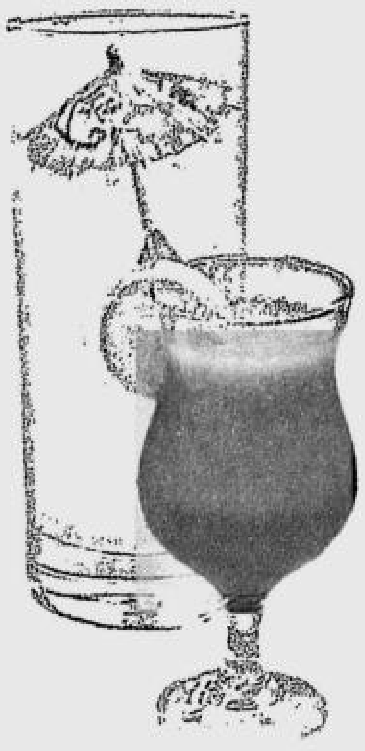
The first topic is "Stress Away." Alonzo will tackle health conditions that stem from stress, like insomnia and high blood pressure.

The lecture will show how physiological factors and nutrition affect the body's ability to manage stress, and how a person can reduce stress level.

May 9 will focus on "Lose Weight, Gain Health." Participants will learn natural ways to achieve their ideal weight while developing a healthy lifestyle. They will also learn how to boost performance and vitality through nutrition.

May 16 is "Dispelling Diabetes." Diabetics whose lifestyles are cramped by the chronic disease will learn how to effectively control blood sugar through natural elements.

Participation is free. Interested individuals should register by Monday before each scheduled lecture to give sufficient time for preparation (tel. 8890138 or 8449530; e-mail info@thefarm.com.ph).



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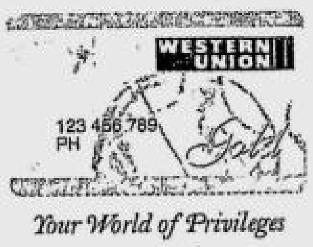

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*Terms and conditions apply. Promo duration is from January 27, 2007 - December 31, 2007. See countertop teasers for details.

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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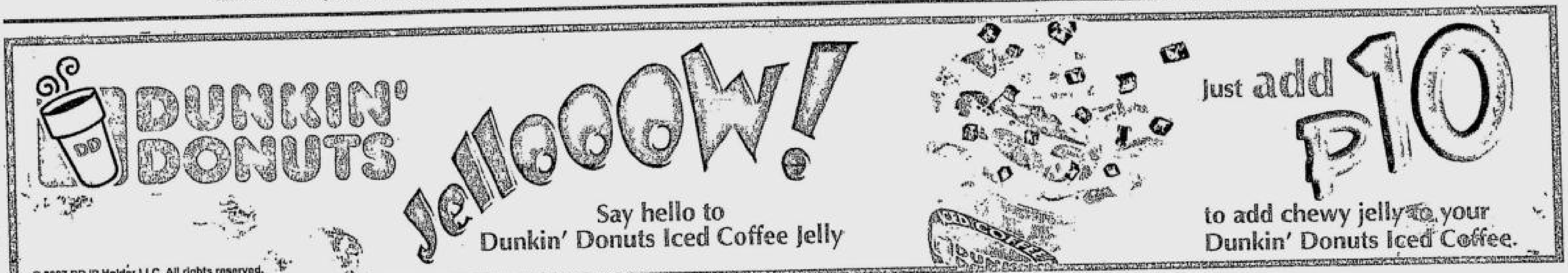
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Ida Henares: Call her Dr. Kapuso

The GMA 7 Artist Center head says a manager is also a counselor, therapist and mentor rolled into one

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MY STAFF AND I SOMEtimes joke that we should hang a sign on the office door that says, 'The doctor is in,'" jokes Ida Henares, network assistant vice president and head of GMA Artist Center (GMAAC). "Maybe we should charge for counseling sessions with our artists."

She's kidding, of course, but in a lot of ways, she can be called Dr. Kapuso.

After four years at the GMAAC, she has learned that a manager also needs to be a counselor, therapist *and* mentor.

Often, Henares notes, she also assumes the role of disciplinarian to all 115 artists on her roster.

Last year, the Kapuso network hit the *chismis* columns after it suspended two of its "Starstruck" discoveries, Jackie Rice and Iwa Moto for almost a month.

Involving parents

"But more than employing such measures, we also talk to the kids' parents," Henares says. "We ask them to join us in thinking of solutions."

Sanctions, she points out, can only go so far. "We don't want to deprive them of income." Being away from the limelight may bring their budding careers more harm than good, she adds.

"At one point," Henares recalls, "Iwa was getting discouraged. So we enrolled her in a program."

It was an Advanced Acting with Therapy and Personality Development Workshop, facilitated by Nanding Josef, vice president and artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"It really worked for her," Henares says. "After going through Nanding's program, Iwa's attitude changed. Nanding has a background in psychotherapy."

She explains that the network takes a holistic approach in developing and representing talents. Apart from speech and acting lessons, the network also conducts values formation seminars for its talents.

Instant fame

In the advent of reality TV, networks have to make sure that new stars are equipped with the necessary tools to handle instant fame, Henares says.

"Reality shows make my job easier because it's a great way to promote new talents. But it can be a challenge for the artist who will be deluged with intrigues and assignments after winning the contest," she points out.

Making things a little more difficult, the network has to strike while the iron is hot. New stars don't have the luxury of time to attend workshops, she clarifies, because they may miss the window of opportunity that fickle fame offers.

"They have to go to work immediately. It's as if new stars are going through on-the-job-training. While they're working,

IDA/D3

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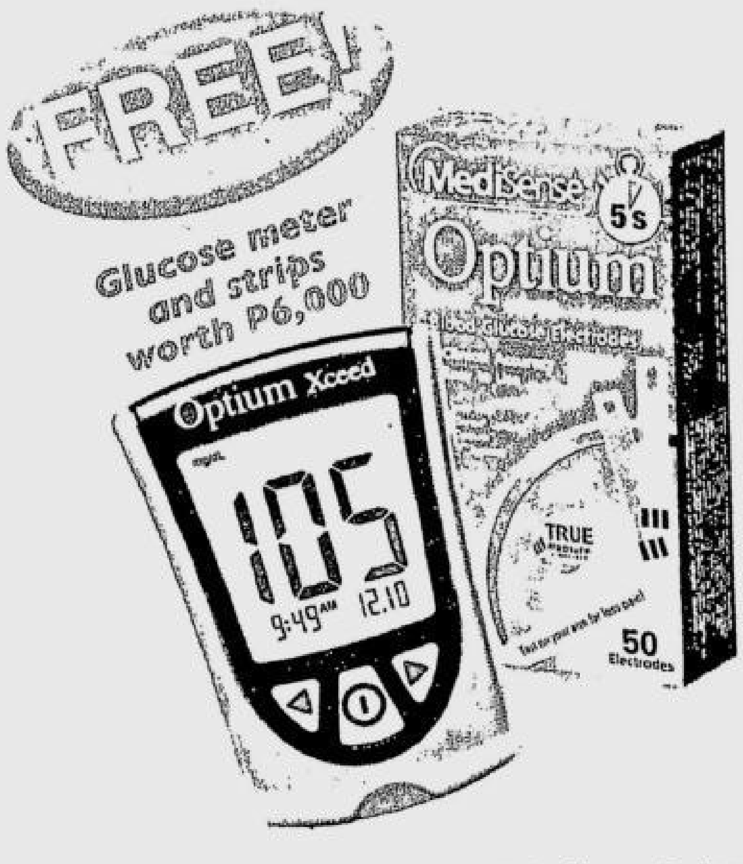

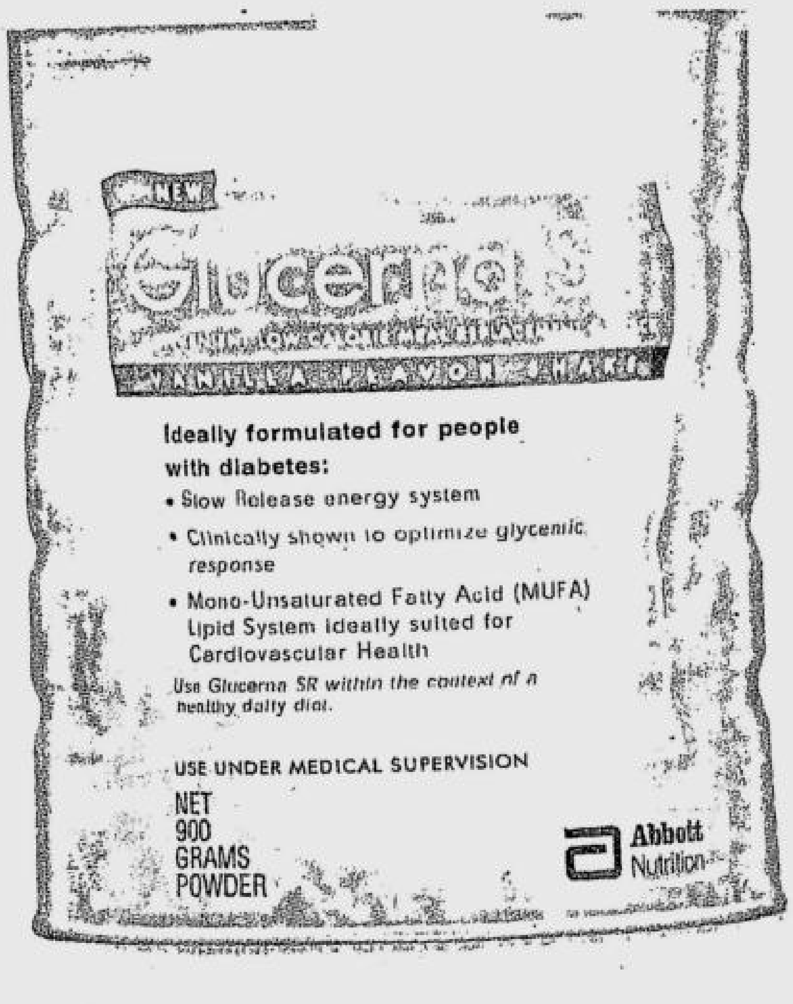
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MECHANICS:

1. For every purchase of Glucerna SR™ 400g or 900g at leading stores, consumers will have the opportunity to avail of a free Optium Xceed Glucose Meter and free Glucose Strips (pack of 50's).
2. To join the promo, users will have to text the main keyword (GLUCERNA), the purchased Glucerna SR™ product size (SKU) (either 400 or 900 grams) and the Official Receipt No. (O.R.#) using the format below & send to 2966:

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   Example: GLUCERNA 400/1234ABCD
3. To validate their entries, the participant will be prompted to send the following information: the main keyword (GLUCERNA), the word REG, name, address, gender and birthdate using the format below:

   GLUCERNA<Space>REG<Space><Name>/<Mailing Address>/<Gender>/<Birthdatemmddyy>
   Example: GLUCERNA REG FE LIM /32 Mango St. Green Park Subd. QC/F/030175
4. Participants must register only once. The consumer's cell phone number is automatically locked to the name registered for the promo.
5. For succeeding entries, consumers should only text the main keyword, SKU and receipt number and send it to 2966:

   GLUCERNA<Space>SKU/O.R. Number
   Example: GLUCERNA 400/1234ABCD
6. The system will automatically compute for the participants' accumulated points per SKU. The size of the cans correspond to points that a participant can acquire:

   For 1 can of Glucerna SR™ 400 grams = 1 point
   For 1 can of Glucerna SR™ 900 grams = 1.5 points
7. The moment a mobile number reaches a total of 12 accumulated points per SKU, the system will alert the consumer that he/she is eligible to win the **Optium Xceed Glucose Meter** gift pack.

   8 cans of Glucerna SR™ 900g = 12 points
   12 cans of Glucerna SR™ 400g = 12 points
8. After the consumer receives a glucose meter based on the accumulated points per SKU, he/she is eligible to get free glucose strips. Basis will be every time a consumer purchases the following cans per SKU, the system will alert the consumer that he/she is eligible to win the **Free Glucose Strips** (pack of 50's) gift pack.

   8 cans of Glucerna SR™ 900g = 12 points
   12 cans of Glucerna SR™ 400g = 12 points
9. Each participant is only allowed to win the **Optium Xceed Glucose Meter** once per SKU of 400g and 900g, but may win **one (1) box of 50s Glucose Strips an unlimited number of times** (for every 12 points accumulated per SKU within the promo period).
10. For multiple purchases of Glucerna SR™ products reflected in one receipt, participants must separately text in each SKU with the OR#.

    Example: For a single receipt with OR#1234ABCD that contains 2 Glucerna SR™ item purchases (400g and 900g), participant must send 2 separate text entries.

    First Entry: GLUCERNA 400/1234ABCD
    Second Entry: GLUCERNA 900/1234ABCD
11. Through automated tallying of points, the system will inform the participants through a text message that he/she has accumulated the required points that make him/her eligible to win a gift pack from Glucerna SR™, subject to verification.
12. The official receipt/s must be kept to serve as proof of purchase. Winners must send the original official receipt reflecting the Glucerna SR™ item entry during the verification process in order to avail of the prizes at Global Wireless Connections, 22/F, Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The official receipt should be at least 75% intact.
13. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk n Text, Addict Mobile and Infinity subscribers. For Sun Cellular subscribers, cost per text is P2.00.

Promo Period: April 25,2007 to Oct. 31, 2007

Glucerna SR™ is available in leading supermarkets, groceries, Mercury Drug stores and SM supermarkets nationwide.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit #0408, S. 2007.

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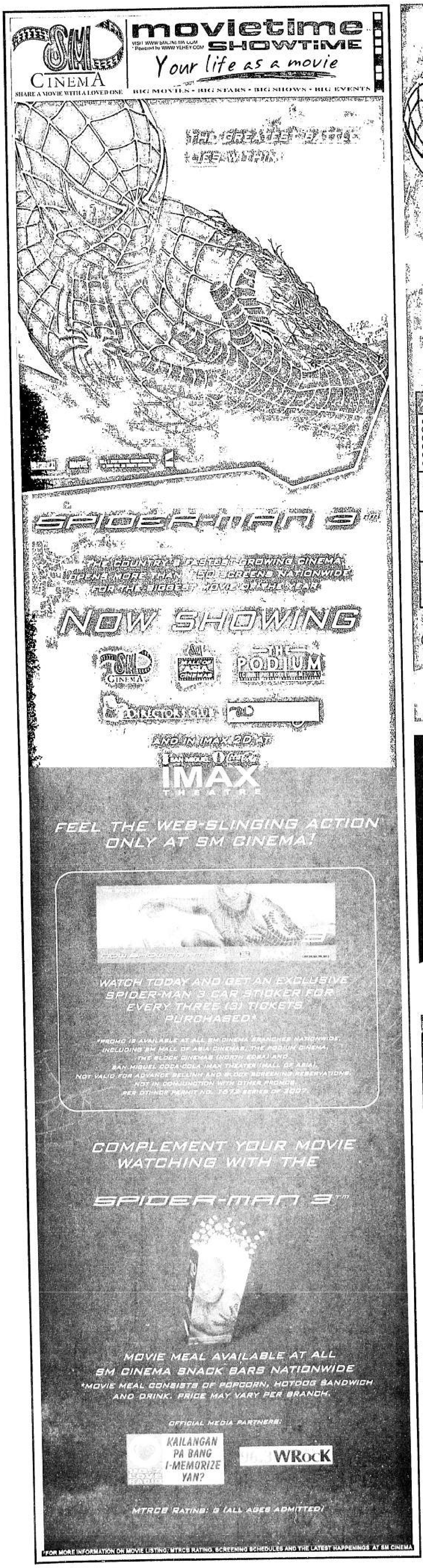

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GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1* - 9:40am, 12:40pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
Cinema 2* - 11:40am, 2:30pm, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
Cinema 3** - 9:00am, 12:10pm, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
Cinema 6 - 8:00 am, 10:45, 1:30pm, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Cinema 7 - 11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15, 11:15

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 9:00am, 12:00nn, 3:00pm, 6:00, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 8:30am, 11:30, 2:30pm, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30
Cinema 3 - 9:30am, 12:30pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1** - 11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10
Cinema 2 - 11:20am, 2:10pm, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
Cinema 3 - 9:30am, 12:40pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
Cinema 5 - 1:10pm, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

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GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1** - 10:30am, 1:20pm, 4:10, 9:50
Cinema 2** - 9:50am, 12:40pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00
Cinema 3* - 12:05pm, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35, 11:25
Cinema 4* - 1:50pm, 4:40, 10:20
Cinema 5* - 2:20pm, 5:10, 10:50

GREENBELT 1
OnStage - 3:15pm, 6:15, 9:15
Cinema 2 - 11:30am, 2:30pm, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1* - 1:00pm, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
Cinema 4 - 11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:10, 8:00
Cinema 5 - 12:00nn, 2:50pm, 5:40, 8:30
Cinema 6 - 12:30pm, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 11:20am, 1:40pm, 4:20, 7:00, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 1:30pm, 3:50, 6:30, 9:30
Cinema 3 - 1:00pm, 3:20, 6:00, 9:00

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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

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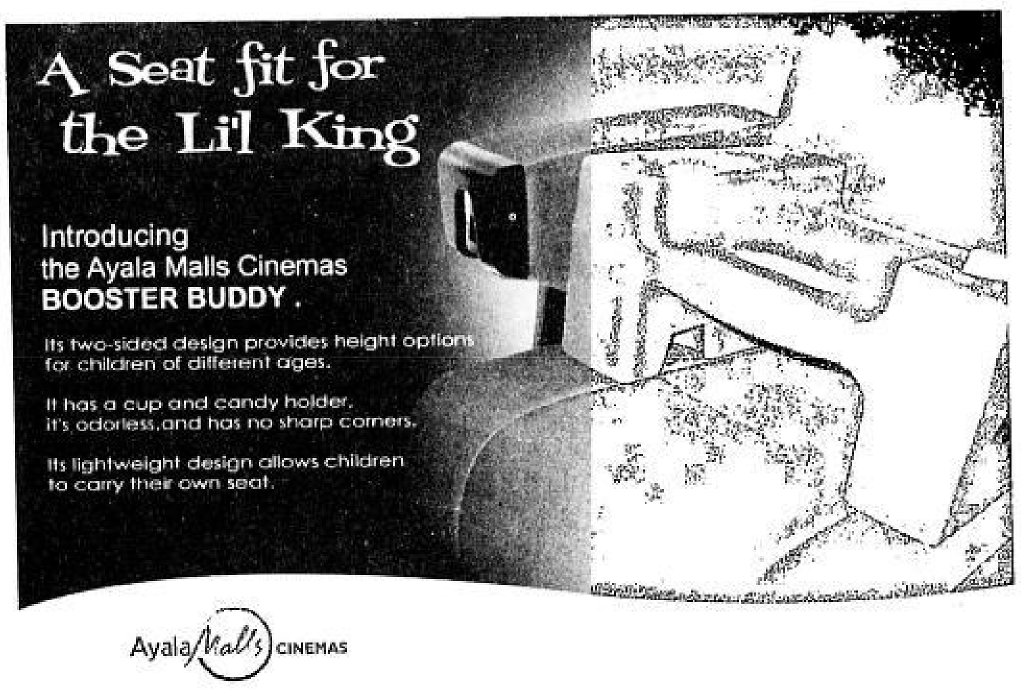

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Dennis Trillo is Maja's . . .

From page D6

seen with a gay friend might make speculations run wild.

Not boyfriend material

I asked **Say Alonzo** why her budding romance with **Sam Milby** went pffft. She sighed. "*Wala talaga kaming* spark, *eh*. We're just meant to be best friends."

Some guys are really not boyfriend material even if they happen to be as gorgeous as Sam.

Phoemela's glow

Phoemela Baranda exudes a different glow these days. Aside from being head over heels in love with **Ira Cruz** (Passage band), she credits it to Belo's facial reshaping. The procedure is non-invasive, painless, free of harmful side effects and causes no downtime.

What can Phoem say about the "reshaping" of "The Buzz's" (where she's a segment host) rival show "S Files" (now "Showbiz Central")? "It's really up to the viewers," she says.

Besides something new doesn't always mean it's something better. Unless it's Phoem's new look you're talking about.

Gold mark

Joey de Leon is on top of the world these days. His "Joey To The World Vol. 2" (Sony BMG) has turned gold and is now nearing the platinum mark. The album consists of parodies and wacky adaptations of OPM hits like "Ulan" (Cueshe's "Ulan"), "Hikaw Lang" (Chad Borja's "Ikaw Lang"), "Itlog" and "Sexy" (6Cyclemind's "Sige" and "Sandalan").

It also includes Joey's original compositions "Tawa" and the "Eat Bulaga" anthem "Itaktak Mo." I remember when De Leon King (that's how I call Tito Joey) and I were in Singapore with other show biz colleagues to watch **Michael Jackson**'s concert. He told me that it must be tough being Jacko. "What else will Michael strive for? He has everything already." Now I'm tempted to ask Tito Joey the same question. Kudos to you, De Leon King!

Suzuki method

The Suzuki method of teaching music believes in starting with children as young as 3 years old. **Richard** and **Lucy Gomez** and **John Estrada** and **Janice de Belen** have entrusted their kids to the method.

Expose your kids to the latest training in playing the violin, piano, cello, flute and guitar from abroad in the 3rd Asia Suzuki Method Conference on May 3 to 7 at La Salle Greenhills (Call 724-0705 or 724-2543).

Who knows? You might have a gifted child whose talents are just waiting to be unwrapped.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Ida Henares: Call her Dr. Kapuso

From page D1

we can send them to different workshops, if needed."

To give the stars a reality check, GMAAC also matches them up with advocacies they may want to espouse.

Henares says: "Iza Calzado, whose stepmom had cancer, took up breast cancer as pet cause. Same with Mike Tan, whose mom is a cancer survivor. Jennylyn Mercado, who was a battered child, has 'adopted' a foundation for abused kids. Angel Locsin, whose dad is blind, supports projects and clinics for the blind."

As manager, Henares takes pains to be totally objective. For instance, she says, "Even though Rhian Ramos is my niece, at work, I'm her manager, not her aunt."

At one point, Henares asked a friend from a survey company to conduct a study for her. "I wanted to know if certain decisions I made were correct. The survey told me they were."

ROUNDUP

Mr. Valentino search

THE ALTERNATIVE entertainment magazine Valentino presents "Search for Mr. Valentino 2007" tomorrow at the Metro Comedy Bar on West Avenue, Quezon City.

The winner of the pageant will appear as cover model in the June 2007 issue of Valentino and will have a special starring role in an upcoming indie movie of director Cris Pablo's Grupong Sinehan.

Twenty-four men will be vying for the title.

Tickets are available at TicketNet (911-5555) and Ticket World (891-5610).

Valenti, 85

WASHINGTON—Jack Valenti, a former presidential aide who became Hollywood's emissary to Washington and developer of the US movie rating system, died on Thursday at age 85, his longtime spokesman, Warren Cowan, said.

Valenti served as an aide to President Lyndon Johnson before heading the Motion Picture Association of America as the movie industry's No. 1 lobbyist for 38 years. He retired in August 2004.

Born Sept. 5, 1921, Valenti suffered a stroke in March 2007, shortly before he was to begin promoting his memoir, "This Time, This Place: My Life in War, the White House, and Hollywood." *Reuters*

$60-M from AI

LOS ANGELES—An "American Idol" charity special filled with wrenching pictures of impoverished children and celebrity appeals raised more than $60 million, Fox said Thursday.

The money from "Idol Gives Back," a two-night special combined with the regular talent contest, will go to organizations funding relief programs for America and Africa, the network said. Donations came from viewers and corporations.

A total of $5 million was pledged by Fox parent company News Corp., which gave 10 cents for each of the first 50 million votes received for contestants on Tuesday's show. More than 70 million votes were cast, a record for the show, Fox said. *AP*

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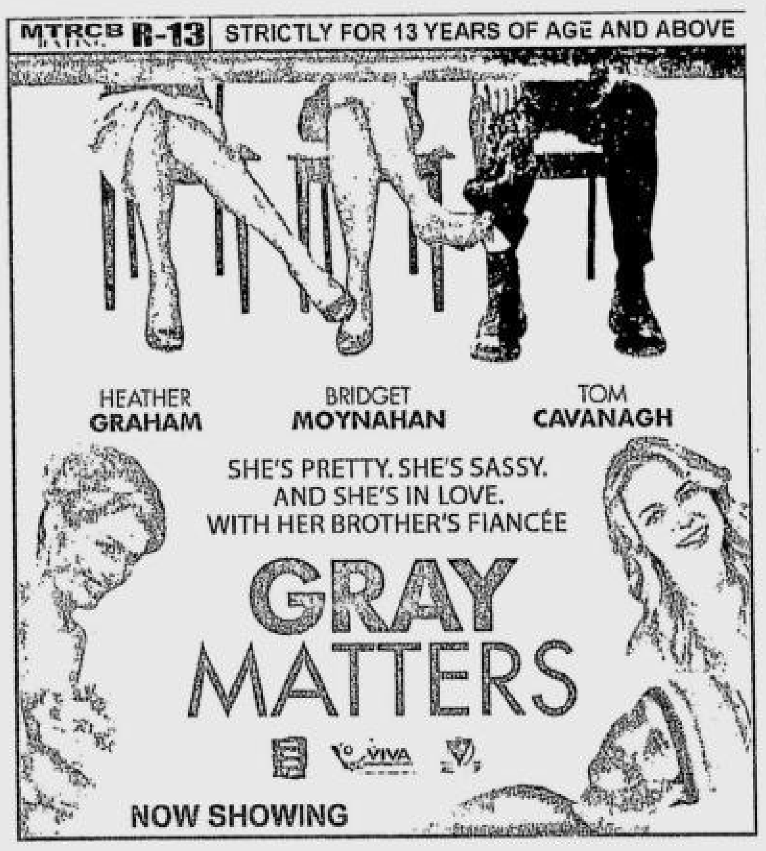

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BRIDGET MOYNAHAN
TOM CAVANAGH

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SPIDERMAN 3	ANG CUTE NG INA MO	SPIDERMAN 3	SPIDERMAN 3

AliMALL 5

1 SPIDERMAN 3	2 SPIDERMAN 3	3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO	5 SHOOTER	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 2, 2007 Wednesday
4:35 - Welcoat vs. Ginebra 7:20 - Air 21 vs. Sta Lucia

PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 4, 2007 Friday
4:35 - Coca Cola vs. Purefoods 7:20 - Red Bull vs. Talk N Text

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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:45 3:35 6.25
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:55 1:45 4:35 7:25
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
12.30 3:20 6:10
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:00 3:50 6:40
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 indieSine: SA NORTH DIVERSION ROAD
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
9 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
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10 SHOOTER

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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:30 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:30 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:30 2:10 4:50 7:30
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
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7 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
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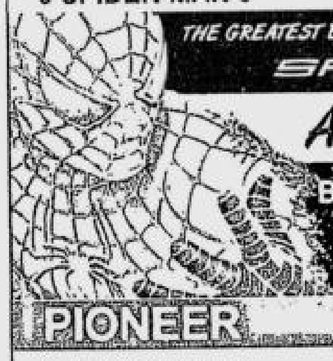
6 SPIDER-MAN 3



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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

LIPA Ticket Price P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 TMNT

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price P80 (046) 416-4332

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHOOTER

ANGELES Ticket Price P 90 (045) 892-2348

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

IMUS Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHOOTER
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

STARMILLS Ticket Price P80 (045) 875-1927

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHOOTER
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESERVE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 (033) 336-8070

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 WILD HOGS
6 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

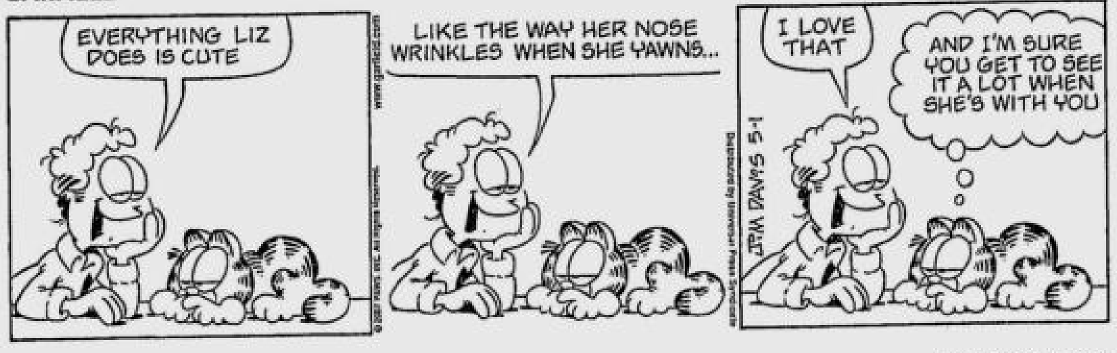
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007

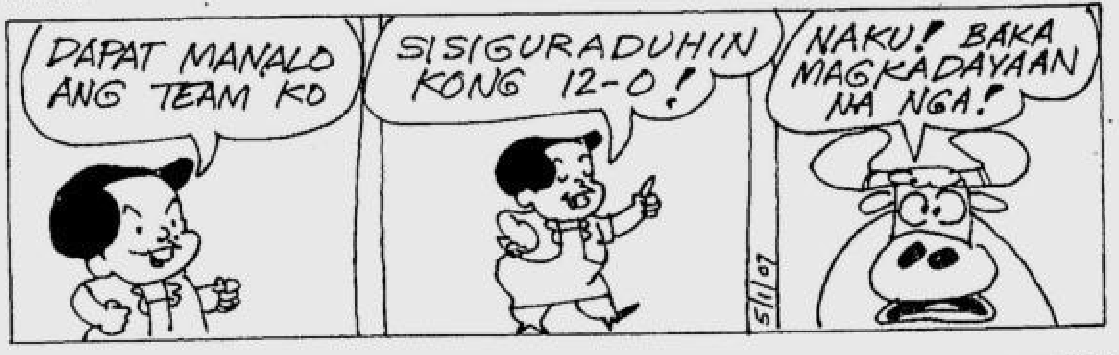
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


EVERYTHING LIZ DOES IS CUTE
LIKE THE WAY HER NOSE WRINKLES WHEN SHE YAWNS...
I LOVE THAT
AND I'M SURE YOU GET TO SEE IT A LOT WHEN SHE'S WITH YOU
JIM DAVIS 5-1

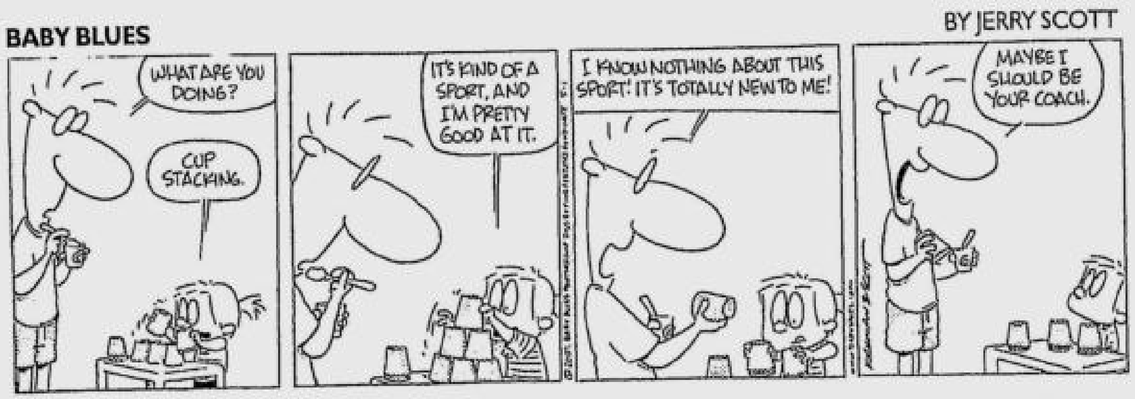
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT MANALO ANG TEAM KO
SISIGURADUHIN KONG 12-0!
NAKU! BAKA MAGKADAYAAN NA NGA!
5/1/07

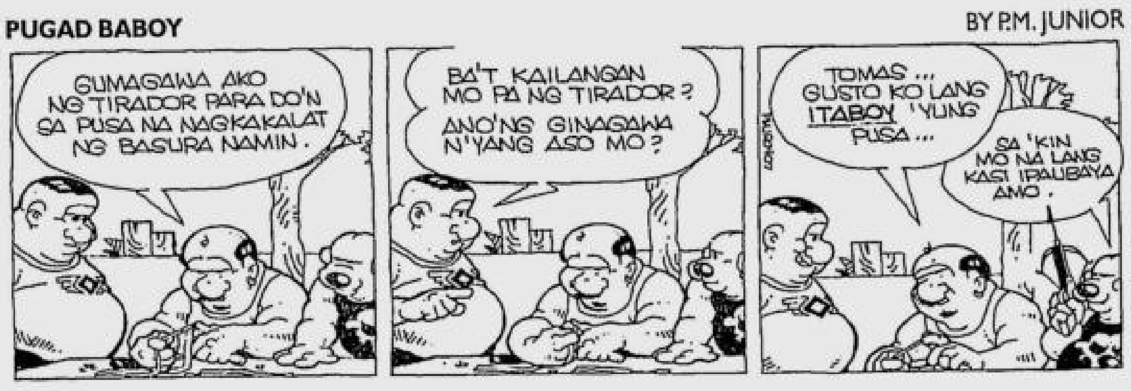
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CUP STACKING.
IT'S KIND OF A SPORT, AND I'M PRETTY GOOD AT IT.
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS SPORT! IT'S TOTALLY NEW TO ME!
MAYBE I SHOULD BE YOUR COACH.

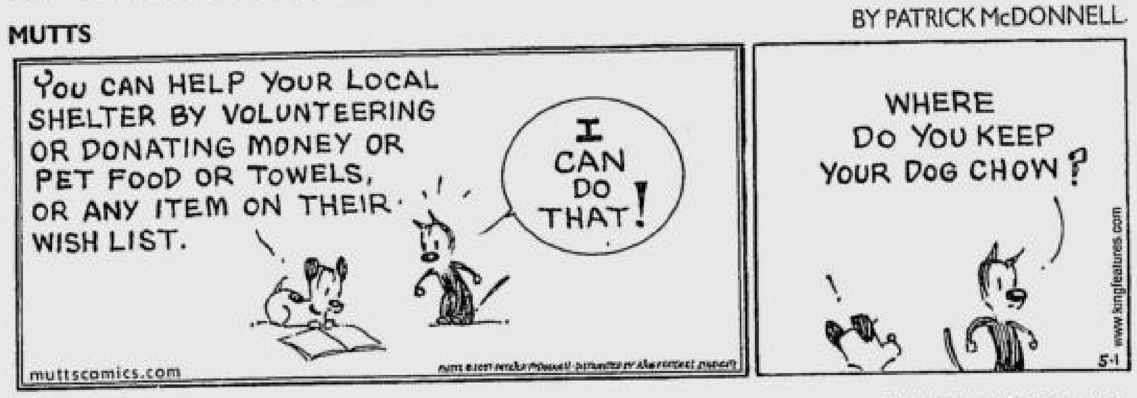
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GUMAGAWA AKO NG TIRADOR PARA DO'N SA PUSA NA NAGKAKALAT NG BASURA NAMIN.
BA'T KAILANGAN MO PA NG TIRADOR?
ANO'NG GINAGAWA N'YANG ASO MO?
TOMAS... GUSTO KO LANG ITABOY 'YUNG PUSA...
SA 'KIN MO NA LANG KASI IPAUBAYA AMO.

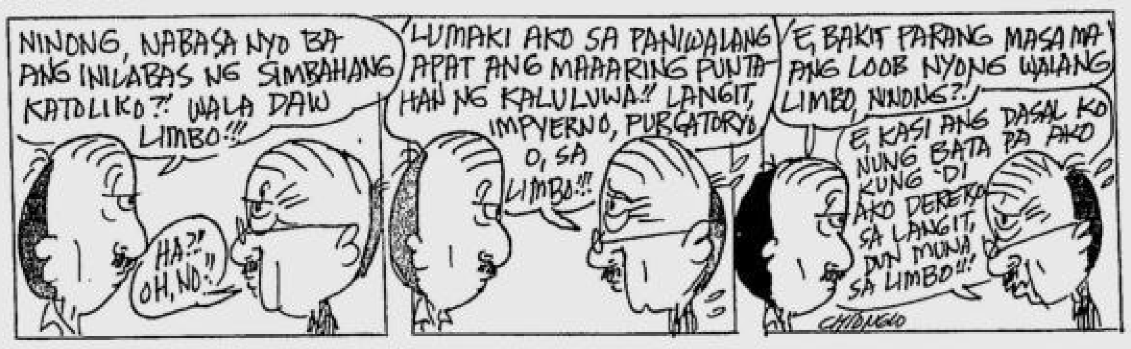
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU CAN HELP YOUR LOCAL SHELTER BY VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING MONEY OR PET FOOD OR TOWELS, OR ANY ITEM ON THEIR WISH LIST.
I CAN DO THAT!
WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR DOG CHOW?
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-1

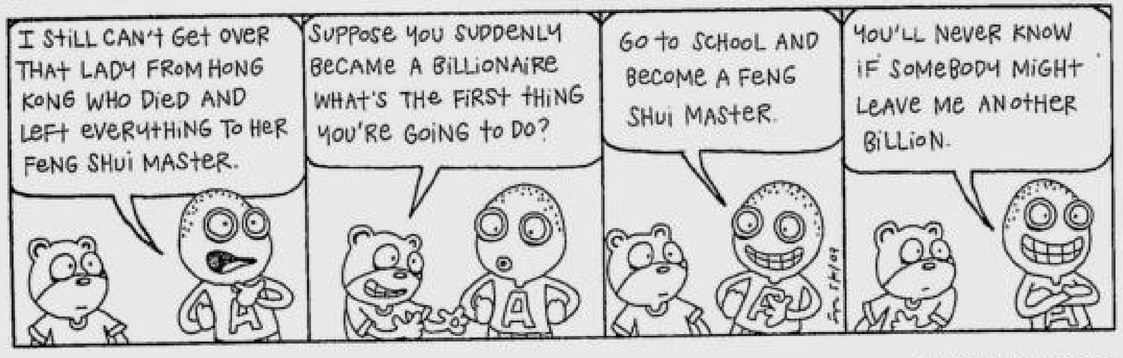
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, NABASA NYO BA PANG INILABAS NG SIMBAHANG KATOLIKO?! WALA DAW LIMBO!!!
HA?! OH, NO!!
LUMAKI AKO SA PANIWALANG APAT ANG MAAARING PUNTAHAN NG KALULUWA!! LANGIT, IMPYERNO, PURGATORYO O, SA LIMBO!!!
E, BAKIT PARANG MASAMA PANG LOOB NYONG WALANG LIMBO, NINONG?!
E KASI ANG DASAL KO NUNG BATA PA AKO KUNG 'DI AKO DERETSO SA LANGIT, DUN MUNA SA LIMBO!!!
CHIONGLO

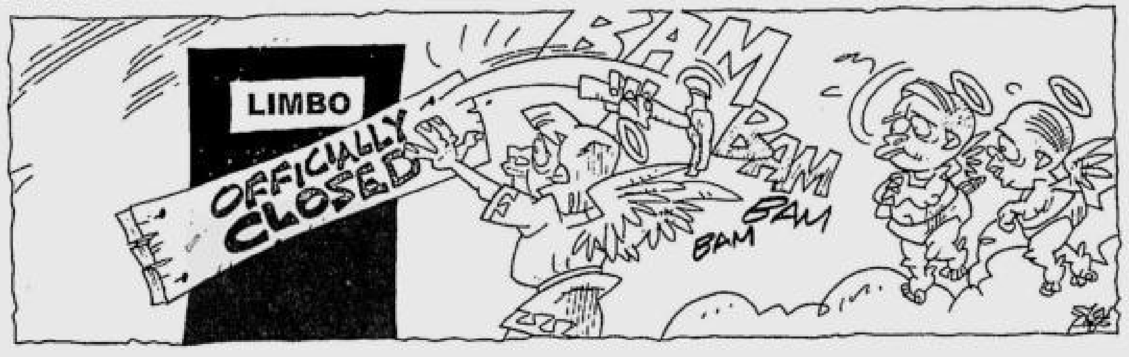
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I STILL CAN'T GET OVER THAT LADY FROM HONG KONG WHO DIED AND LEFT EVERYTHING TO HER FENG SHUI MASTER.
SUPPOSE YOU SUDDENLY BECAME A BILLIONAIRE WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
GO TO SCHOOL AND BECOME A FENG SHUI MASTER.
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IF SOMEBODY MIGHT LEAVE ME ANOTHER BILLION.

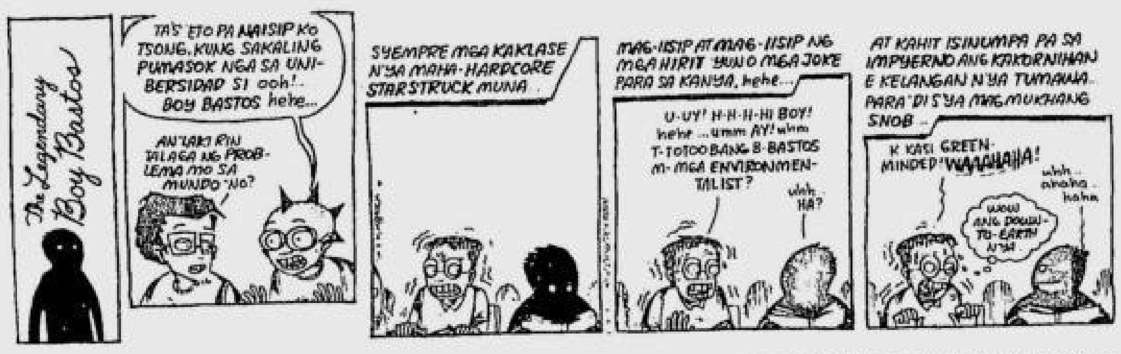
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LIMBO
OFFICIALLY CLOSED
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

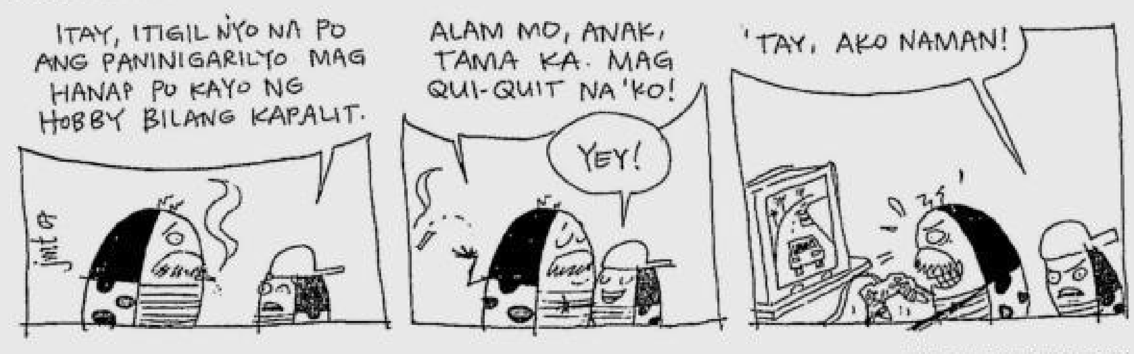
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


The Legendary Boy Bastos
TA'S ETO PA NAISIP KO TSONG. KUNG SAKALING PUMASOK NGA SA UNIBERSIDAD SI ooh!.. BOY BASTOS hehe...
AN'LAKI RIN TALAGA NG PROBLEMA MO SA MUNDO 'NO?
SYEMPRE MGA KAKLASE N'YA MAHA-HARDCORE STARSTRUCK MUNA
MAG-IISIP AT MAG-IISIP NG MGA HIRIT YUNG MGA JOKE PARA SA KANYA, hehe...
U-UY! H-H-H-HI BOY! hehe ...umm AY! uhm T-TOTOO BANG B-BASTOS M-MGA ENVIRONMENTALIST?
uhh HA?
AT KAHIT ISINUMPA PA SA IMPYERNO ANG KAKORNIHAN E KELANGAN N'YA TUMAWA PARA 'DI S'YA MAGMUKHANG SNOB...
K KASI GREEN-MINDED! WAAHAHA!
uhh.. ahaha.. haha
WOW ANG DOWN-TO-EARTH N'YA

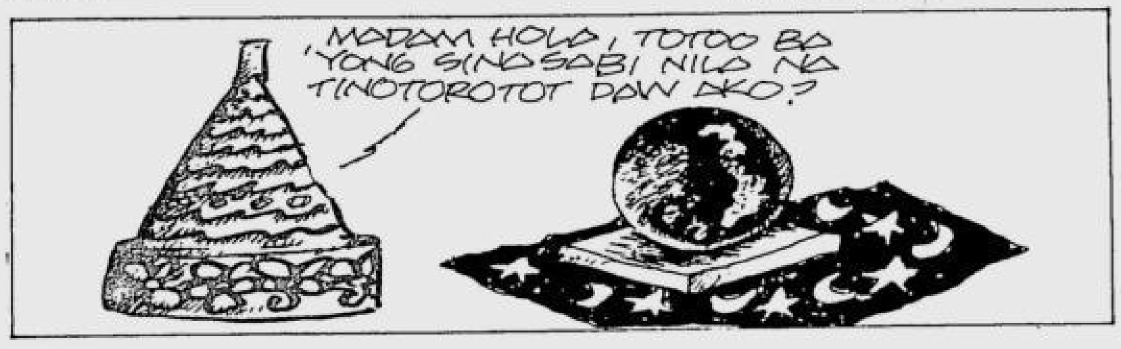
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAY, ITIGIL NYO NA PO ANG PANINIGARILYO MAG HANAP PO KAYO NG HOBBY BILANG KAPALIT.
ALAM MO, ANAK, TAMA KA. MAG QUI-QUIT NA'KO!
YEY!
'TAY, AKO NAMAN!

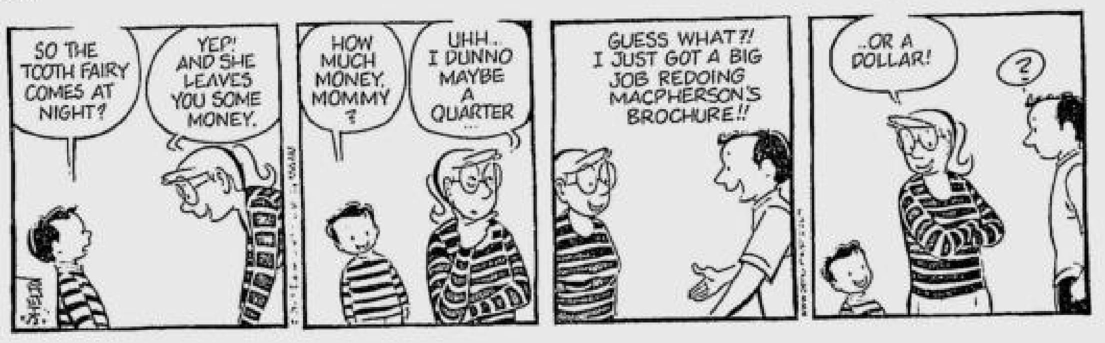
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MADAM HOLA, TOTOO BA 'YONG SINASABI NILA NA TINOTOROTOT DAW AKO?

BEN

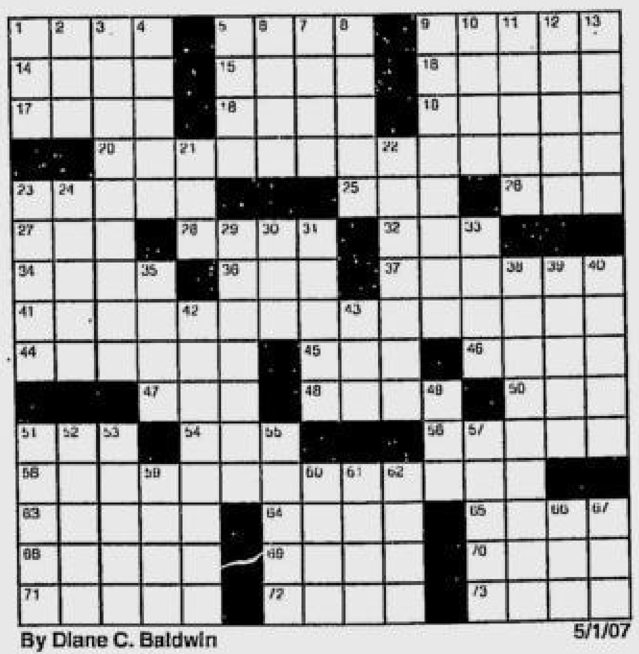
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO THE TOOTH FAIRY COMES AT NIGHT?
YEP! AND SHE LEAVES YOU SOME MONEY.
HOW MUCH MONEY, MOMMY?
UHH.. I DUNNO MAYBE A QUARTER...
GUESS WHAT?! I JUST GOT A BIG JOB REDOING MACPHERSON'S BROCHURE!!
..OR A DOLLAR!
?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 E.R. personnel
5 Concrete strip
9 Ignoramus
14 Mary Kay rival
15 Groovy!
16 Marketplace for Plato
17 Carvey or Ivey
18 "The King and I" heroine
19 Gooey lumps
20 Work perk
23 More cunning
25 __-pitch softball
26 Barnyard digs
27 Cow's chew
28 Stat!
32 Rope-a-dope poet
34 Passes with panache
36 Cry's companion
37 Something to hit at a fiesta
41 Imminent catastrophe
44 Fourth-year student
45 Had a bite
46 Travel before takeoff
47 Kind of hole or holder
48 Bonanza vein
50 Scottish negative
51 Coral or Cortez
54 Beer container
56 Bottomless pit
58 Wiggle room
63 See eye to eye
64 Slow flow
65 Diamond Head's site
68 Paper amounts
69 Rani's garb
70 Stair
71 Romantic rendezvous
72 Impetuous ardor
73 Sawbucks

DOWN
1 Pop equivalent
2 Eggs
3 Share a secret with
4 Marching drum
5 Check a bar code
6 Drawn-out
7 Top-notch
8 Lets the cat out of the bag
9 Tom Cruise film
10 Eye amorously
11 Places for shingles
12 Planet's path
13 Thoroughly unpleasant
21 A Gershwin
22 Slipped away, as time
23 Strikebreakers
24 Filthy money?
29 Abbreviate
30 Wiedersehen lead-in
31 Piano feature
33 Part of MIT
35 Clip
38 Be that as it may
39 Home state for Dubya
40 Zodiac ram
42 Most bonkers
43 Figure skater Midori
49 Sense organ
51 Chic
52 Geared up
53 Panoply
55 Silly person
57 Jack up
59 Precious stones
60 Stable youngster
61 Poet Pound
62 Restraining influence
66 Female lobster
67 High times



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/1/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	D	S	■	A	S	T	I	R	■	C	H	A	P
A	L	A	I	■	R	O	Y	C	E	■	R	E	N	O
S	U	V	S	■	M	A	N	E	S	■	I	R	O	N
I	D	I	■	H	O	P	E	D	I	A	M	O	N	D
L	E	D	G	E	R	S	■	■	D	U	E	■	■	■
■	■	S	W	A	Y	■	A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E
R	E	P	E	L	■	P	R	I	N	T	■	R	O	Y
I	V	A	N	■	W	A	I	S	T	■	M	A	R	E
D	I	D	■	B	E	R	E	T	■	S	A	V	E	D
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S	■	M	E	R	E	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	■	P	A	R	C	H	E	D
J	O	I	N	T	H	E	C	L	U	B	■	E	L	I
U	S	D	A	■	O	N	E	A	L	■	P	A	I	L
G	L	E	N	■	M	O	N	T	E	■	O	R	A	L
S	O	S	A	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	I	T	S	Y

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5/1/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a keen observer of the human condition. (And your observations are intelligent.) You're not wishy-washy in your opinions; you defend your beliefs. You enjoy your creature comforts, and are pleased with the sensual pleasures of food, drink and human contact. You're down-to-earth and approachable. You can look forward to a wonderfully social year that favors all partnerships!

Birthdate of: Tim McGraw, singer; Dann Florek, actor; Judy Collins, singer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might feel concerned about money matters. Or perhaps you're debating about a major purchase. Tomorrow's Full Moon easily creates temporary tension about this for you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Full Moon tomorrow is opposite your sign. As it builds toward its peak, you might find that relations with others become more difficult. Be patient. This passes soon.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): If you feel a weird, gnawing anxiety within you and you can't place what it is, don't worry. Tomorrow's Full Moon might do this. Mellow out. (Gone in 48 hours.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be extra patient with friends and groups you might be dealing with now. Everyone feels the tension building up before tomorrow's Full Moon

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel pulled between the demands of career versus the demands of home and family. It's hard to find a balance. Just cope as best you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day for you, so take extra precautions. Slow down. Think before you speak. Don't push the river.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): As the Full Moon approaches each month, our problems seem to intensify. Then after the Full Moon peaks, these same problems diminish. (Go figure.) Right now you have financial concerns. Just be patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Tomorrow, the Full Moon is in your sign. Therefore, today you might feel increasing tension or conflict with partners and close friends. Your only recourse is to be patient with everyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll have to cut co-workers, clients and customers some extra slack today. People can feel the tension building up before tomorrow's Full Moon. (This includes you.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The demands of friends and groups might conflict with romantic demands. Possibly the demands of others conflict with your responsibilities for children. Whatever the case, juggle things as best as you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents, bosses, teachers and authority figures might be increasingly difficult to deal with right now. You're juggling career and family, and it isn't easy! (Things look better by Wednesday.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. Therefore, go slowly and take it easy. Avoid arguments where you're trying to persuade others to agree with you.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

					4		5	2
			8					4
				3	2			
	2			9		6		5
		4	5	2	8	1		
8		5		6			2	
			1	5				
9					7			
6	8		3					

Difficulty Level ★★

5/01

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	5	1	2	7	8	3	9	4
3	9	2	1	4	5	7	6	8
4	7	8	9	6	3	1	5	2
7	4	5	6	3	1	2	8	9
8	1	9	7	5	2	6	4	3
2	6	3	8	9	4	5	7	1
1	2	6	4	8	7	9	3	5
5	8	7	3	1	9	4	2	6
9	3	4	5	2	6	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★

D3

Now On Disc

RUNNING WITH SCISSORS

'Running With Scissors'

THIS IS THE STORY of Augusten Burroughs, who is trapped between his troubled parents.

When the couple's marriage goes to pieces, Augusten's mother signs up for therapy with the eccentric Dr. Finch, who takes the family under his wing.

Finch fails to save the marriage, and Augusten's life takes an even more wrenching turn.

The movie, which stars Annette Bening, Brian Cox, Joseph Fiennes, Alec Baldwin and Gwyneth Paltrow, is now on VCD and DVD from Magnavision Home Video.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

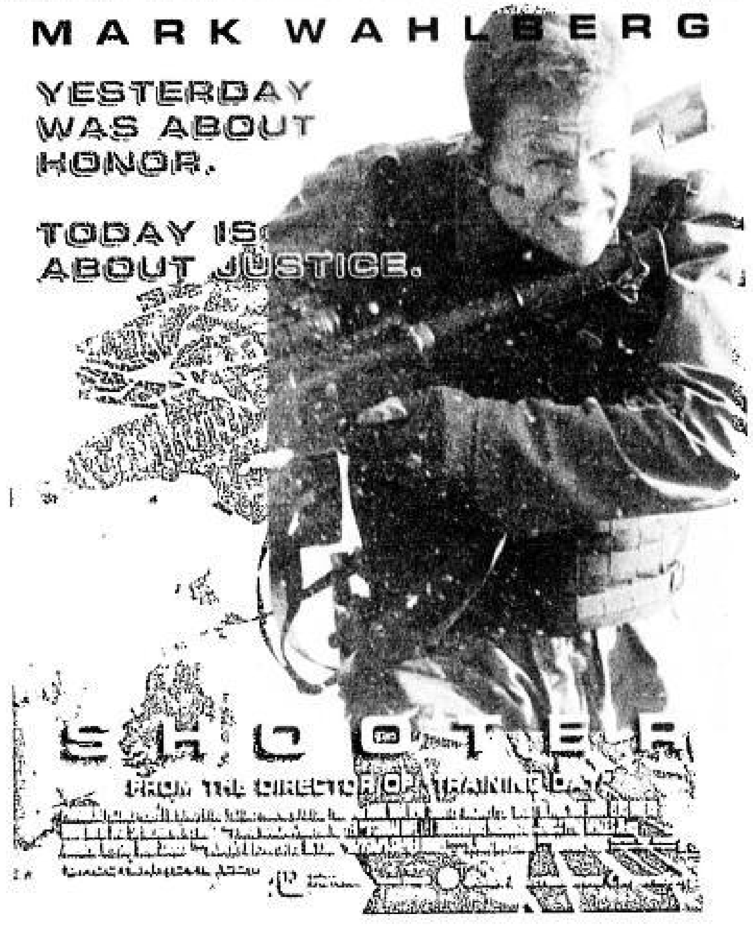
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	SPIDER-MAN 3	1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50	G
2	SPIDER-MAN 3	2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	G
3	SPIDER-MAN 3	12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40	G
4	SPIDER-MAN 3	12:00, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50	G

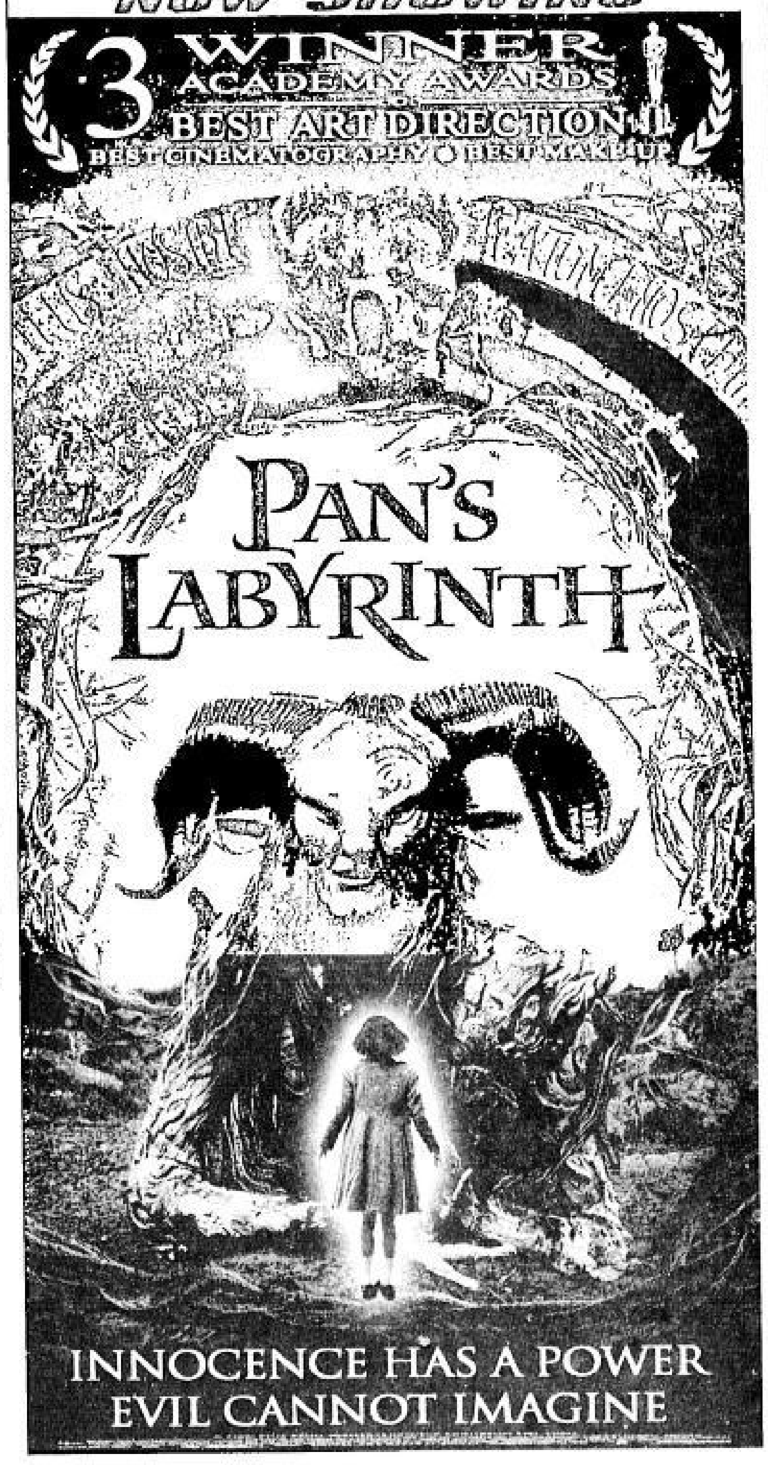
R-13

2ND WEEK!

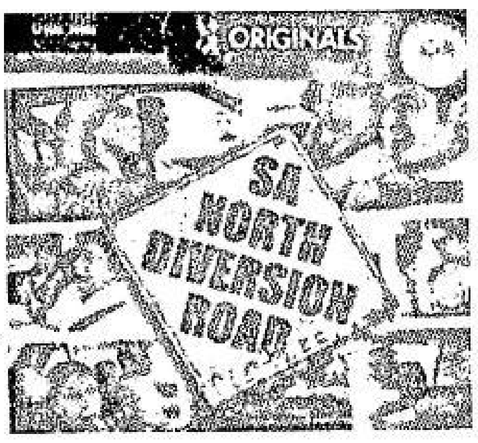


MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

NOW SHOWING


3 WINNER ACADEMY AWARDS
BEST ART DIRECTION
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY ○ BEST MAKE-UP
PAN'S LABYRINTH
INNOCENCE HAS A POWER EVIL CANNOT IMAGINE

SHOWING TODAY!



Starring Irma Adlawan & John Arcilla!!

DENNIS MARASIGAN'S

SA NORTH DIVERSION ROAD

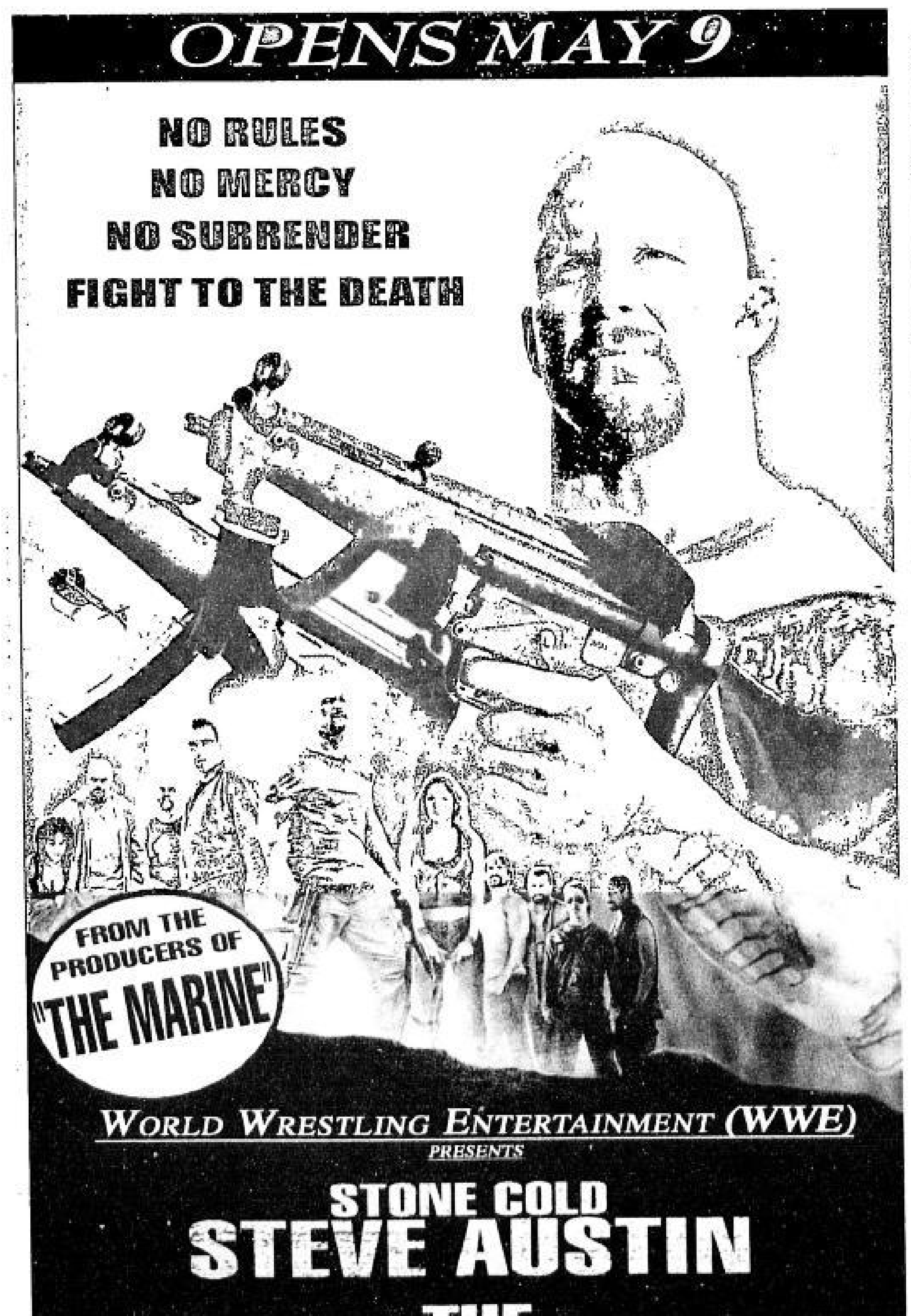
Your last chance to catch this highly-acclaimed film!

Official Selection, Singapore Int'l Film Festival
Official Selection, Pesaro Int'l Film festival
Winner, Best Adapted Screenplay, Golden Screen Awards
Nominated, Best Actress, Golden Screen Awards
Noiminated, Best Actress, URIAN Awards

April 25 to May 1

Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

OPENS MAY 9



POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 DOLBY DIGITAL

SPIDER-MAN 3 G 12:40,3:40,6:40	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 1:10,4:10,10:10	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 11:10,2:10,5:10, 8:10,11:10
SPIDER-MAN 3 G 11:40,2:40,5:40,8:40	FIREHOUSE DOG G 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 1:40,4:40,10:40

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB GP	11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 11:00
2	SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB GP	12:00, 3:00, 9:00
3	SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB GP	11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30
4	SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB GP	1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE	SPIDER-MAN 3 (GP)	12:30, 3:30, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Catch the early screenings of Spider-man 3 at 11:00 AM at the SHANG CINEPLEX on the following dates: May 1, 2007 (Tuesday), May 4, 2007 (Friday) & May 6, 2007 (Sunday)

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
1	SPIDERMAN 3	10:30, 1:20, 4:10 7:00, 9:50	PG-13
2	FIREHOUSE DOG // SPIDERMAN 3	11:35, 2:20, 5:05 // 7:40, 10:30	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
3	SPIDERMAN 3	10:20, 1:05, 3:55 6:45, 9:35	PG-13
4	SPIDERMAN 3	11:35, 2:25, 5:15 8:05, 10:50	PG-13
5	SPIDERMAN 3	10:50, 1:45, 4:35 7:25, 10:15	PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

May 04, 2007	HALE	8:00 PM
May 5, 11 & 12, 2007	Rock the Vote " The Repeat "	8:00 PM
May 18, 2007	CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA	8:00 PM
May 19 & 26, 2007	OGIE ALCASID & SITTI	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
JUNE 15, 2007	Champion of the World (Jed Madela)	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
PREMIERE (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4	SPIDER-MAN 3

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SPIDER-MAN 3
5	RESRVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433934

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4	PREMONITION

THEATRES

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	RESRVED
4	RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	THE SHOOTER
4	SPIDER-MAN 3
5	SPIDER-MAN 3
6	SPIDER-MAN 3
7	SPIDER-MAN 3
8	SPIDER-MAN 3
9	SPIDER-MAN 3
10	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4	SPIDER-MAN 3
5	THE SHOOTER

THE MARKETPLACE
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2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4	SATANICA

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	THE SHOOTER

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

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2	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4	THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE
2	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
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4	

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

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3	SPIDER-MAN 3

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

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3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

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2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2	THE HILLS HAVE EYES

Lianas Cinema
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Lianas MovieCity
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2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SATANICA
4	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SPIDER-MAN 3
2	SPIDER-MAN 3
3	SPIDER-MAN 3
4	ANG CUTE NG INA MO

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

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Dennis Trillo is Maja's biggest crush

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MAJA SALVADOR HAS ASKED CARLO **Aquino** to stop pursuing her. *"Di ko pa* feel *mag-ka* BF *ngayon,"* she said. But what if her biggest crush **Dennis Trillo** courts her? Maja blushed. *"Di ko ata kayanin sa sobrang kilig ko!"*

Dennis was supposed to play Maja's brother in "My Kuya's Wedding" but it didn't materialize. *"Buti na lang di natuloy* 'cause awkward *naman na may* hidden desire *ako sa kuya ko pag* shooting (laughs)."

Some kind of sibling loving? But off-cam, love could beckon and ask: Why him? Why her? Why not?

Hot romance

Looks like **Ryan Agoncillo** has imbibed his GF **Juday**'s culinary expertise. He brought along his own mini-stove during an out-of town shoot. Then he let his assistant whip up a mean dish of liempo and bacon, which he shared with his co-stars and the production staff. Juday dropped by the set to keep Ryan company.

They definitely got all the right ingredients for a hot romance.

17 going on 30

Kim Chui just turned 17 but it seems she's going on 30 with all the life-changing experiences PBB has brought her way. I teased Kim about her trip to Hong Kong with her sister and **Gerald Anderson** and his dad. She smiled. "We (she and Gerald) had different schedules so *mas ka*-bonding *ko* sis *ko* in Hong Kong and *si* Gerald *naman yung* dad *niya*."

After her debut, will she be allowed to travel with Gerald alone? "Depends where he will take me," Kim said, laughing.

But fame will surely take the Kimerald love team to even greater heights.

No homophobic

Derek Ramsey was spotted en route to Boracay with two male companions. My friend who was on the same flight insists that the Chinese-looking fellow who was "super-*asikaso*" to Derek is gay. If so, then maybe Derek just wants to show that he's not homophobic and he doesn't give a hoot if being

DENNIS/ D2

MAJA SALVADOR

DENNIS TRILLO

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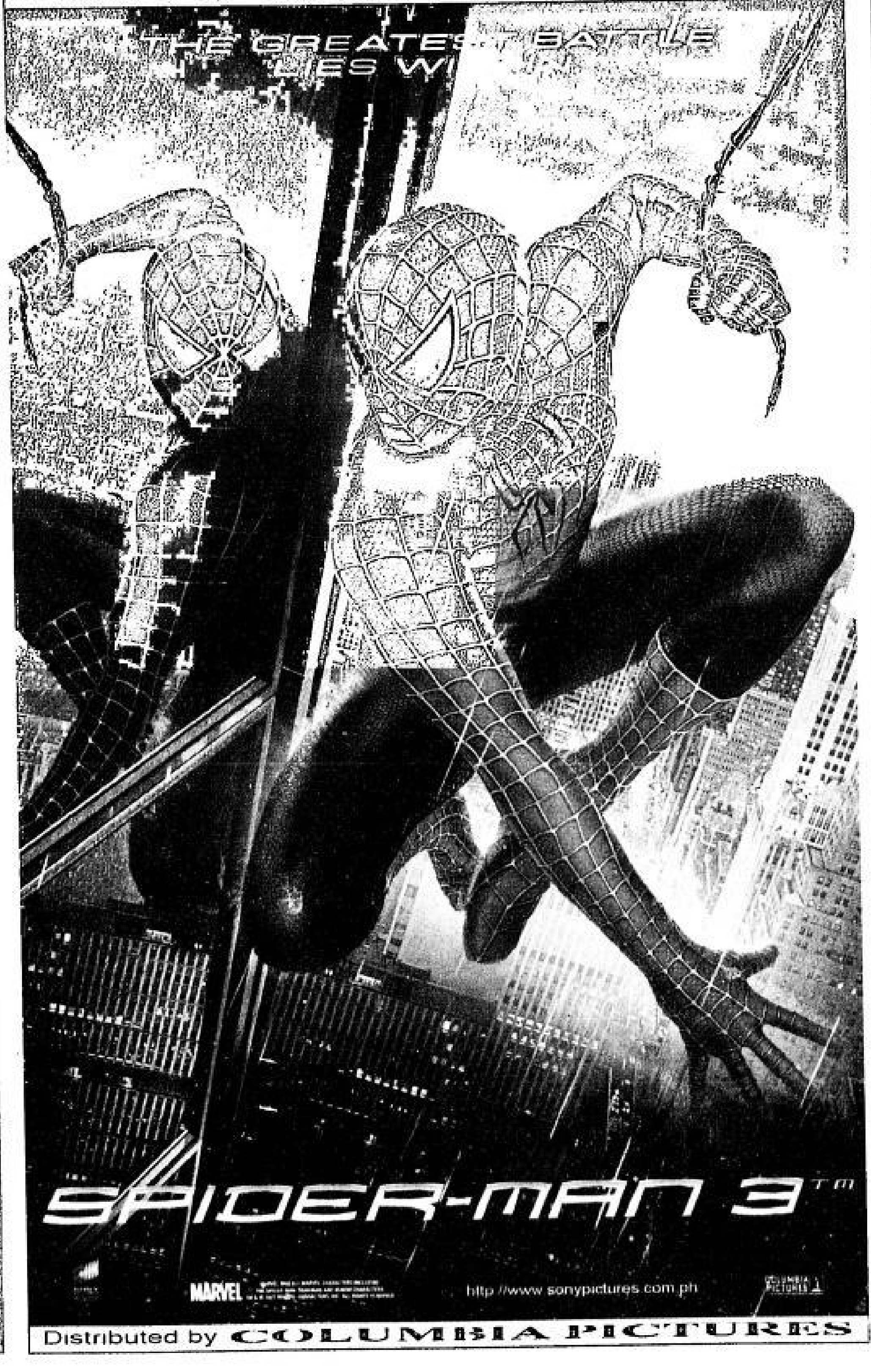

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